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What We All Need to Know About Adoption

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive



Photo by Jodi Davis, jodidavisphotography.com

Jodi and Troy Davis, of the Queen Creek East Stake, have adopted two children, Brooklyn, 5, and Brigham, 2. "Adoption is obviously very near and dear to my heart," says Jodi. "Heavenly Father knew each of us and knew that we needed to be together and so He provided a way for that to happen."

years, says, "Everyone can play a part to further this process that blesses lives."

Dale, of the Keating Ward, Mesa West Stake, says, "We can all be tools to make miracles happen for children."

He says, with current economic uncertainties, adoption has taken on a different complexion in four specific areas.

First, he explains, "As the economic disruptions increase fear and loneliness, the desire for comfort and companionship also increases," creating situations in which unwanted pregnancies may

occur among birthparents who are not able financially or emotionally to care for the child.

Second, adoptive parents are affected by the economy, he says. "Because some adoptive parents will suspend their search for an adoption due to economic concerns, those who hang in there during these times, when there are more children and fewer searching couples, may very well find the child they have been seeking."

Continued on pg. 5

By Presidential proclamation, November is designated as National Adoption Month, a month set aside to raise awareness about adoption and to pay tribute to adoptive parents and to birthparents.

For many Latter-day Saint couples and families, adoption awareness is a year-round focus, something that has had life-changing, even eternal significance in their lives.

"Adoption is a sacred aspect of our lives," says Christie Petersen, whose oldest three children were adopted through LDS Family Services. "We have been greatly blessed and are amazed by the strength and courage of our children's birth parents," she says.

Jodi and Troy Davis, of Desert Wells Ward, Queen Creek East Stake and adoptive parents of two children, Brooklyn, 5, and Brigham, 2, agree.

"As soon as you hold your child in your arms for the first time, you forget all the difficult times and you realize what a wonderful blessing adoption is. I am a mother because two amazing and selfless women entrusted me with their children. My heart is filled with overwhelming love and gratitude for both of these women and each day I try to repay them in the only way I know how—by loving their children."

According to Dale Gwilliam, an attorney from Mesa who has worked in the area of adoption for more than 30

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What We All Need to Know Continued from pg. 3

Third, grandparents who are raising grandchildren also are vulnerable during economic turmoil.

"Census figures show there are about 8 million children in the care of their grandparents," Dale says, adding, "Because grandparents are on fixed incomes and often face illness or increased health care costs, they may be unable to provide adequate care any longer, and many of these children face the need to be adopted, or they could drop into the foster care system." This can be a blessing for the adoptive families as well as grandparents, who "can still act as grandparents to their children," Brother Gwilliam says.

The fourth group includes, "you and me," he says. "When we interact with people in one of these three categories, we can help them, give them informa-

tion or introduce them to someone who can help. Often abortions are avoided, children are rescued and adoptions occur because a friend knows someone and talks to that person."

Brother Gwilliam says, "If we will let the Spirit guide us, and allow the Lord to open the way, miracles will happen."

Jodi Davis believes wholeheartedly in those miracles. "Adoption is a modern-day miracle and a powerful daily reminder that Heavenly Father knows and loves each of us. Our kids were born on opposite sides of the country and, yet, we were able to find each other and become a family. It doesn't



Photo by David Perry

After five years of waiting, Sharon and Greg Slater, and their son, Michael (I) of the Gilbert Val Vista Stake, welcome the three siblings, Luis, Amelia and Alfonso (front, with his back to the camera), who the Slaters adopted from Mozambique.

matter that I didn't give birth to them. I am their mother and they are my kids."

In addition to children in the United

States, there are an estimated 150 million orphans in the world, says Sharon Slater, President of Family Watch International. She says in addition to more being available for adoption, many of these children have lost parents and other family members to AIDS or other diseases, but haven't experienced the emotional issues and dysfunction often seen in children who are in foster care.

"Adoption for many is a spiritual experience. I have watched as specific people are directed to specific countries and to specific children," she says.

Sharon and her husband, Greg, of

Continued on pg. 7

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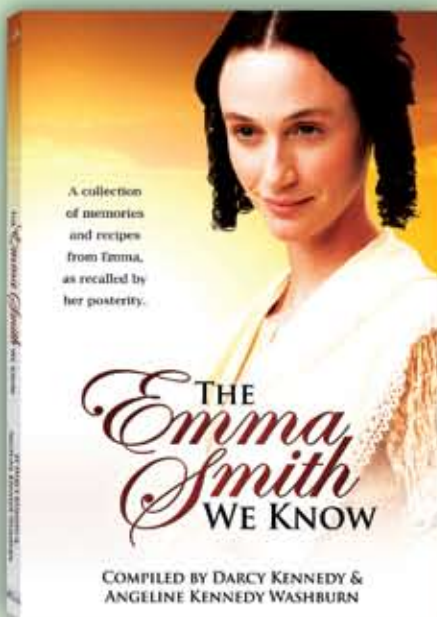
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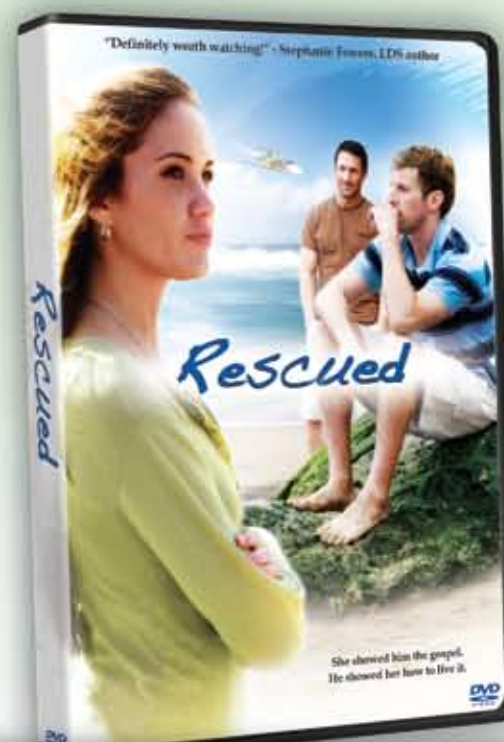
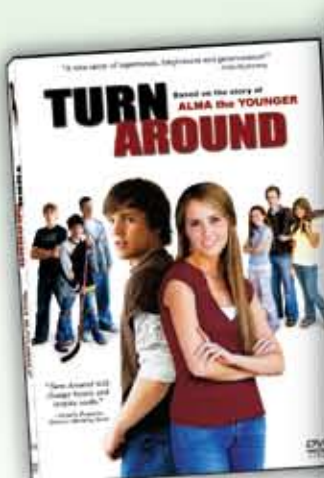
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What We All Need to Know Continued from pg. 5

the Gilbert 9th Ward, Gilbert Val Vista Stake, didn't set out to adopt children from Africa. Six years ago, they were in Mozambique on assignment with United Families International to help with the organization's HIV/AIDS prevention program, and, Sharon says, "We came across three children that would capture our hearts and help us to understand through personal experience the plight of orphans throughout the world."

The siblings, whose parents had died of AIDS, happened to be members of the Church. "The children's older brother, Rogerio (who since has also died of AIDS), approached us on that first trip and asked if we would adopt his siblings so he could serve a mission. It was one of those surreal, unexpected experiences that catches you by surprise. We decided as a family that it was the right thing to do."

For the Slaters, it was only after five years of red tape, setbacks and even being accused of trafficking in children, that they were able to bring their children home last year.

While Sharon says, "I don't know one adoption that has been easy," she still affirms, "I believe we are our brother's keeper. Those of us who live in developed countries live so well, and we have an obligation to help those who do not. Especially the orphans. There are many good organizations throughout the world working to help these children. Reach the Children, Care for Life, and United

Families International and are just a few. I would encourage you to align yourself with the good efforts of those who are working to help the orphans of the world."

Sharon says a Family Watch project called Families for Orphans provides information, tips and many personal experiences about international adoption, which can be found at www.families-savingorphans.org. Also, a Yahoo group, at <http://groups.yahoo.com/LDSIntAdopt>, offers a forum for Latter-day Saints to share ideas and experiences about international adoption.

Brother Gwilliam says there are many excellent sources of information about domestic adoption as well. He co-founded several companies, which operate www.adoption.com and several other adoption Web sites, which, he says "provide more than a million pages of adoption-related content," including profiles of prospective adoptive parents, foster parenting information, a registry of adoptable children in foster care, abortion alternatives and services to help birth families reunite.

Brother Gwilliam also supports the Families Supporting Adoption organization and Web site (Familiesupportingadoption.com), an excellent resource for "anyone who is LDS and who wants to or has adopted as well as for birth families and adults who are adopted," says Shanna Bake, program specialist with LDS Family Services.

She adds that while other adoption agencies can be helpful for Latter-day Saint families, "LDS Family Services places the emphasis on the family and



Photo by Christie Petersen, Petersen Photography, www.petersenphoto.net

After nearly 15 years of marriage, years of infertility, 3 precious children through the gift of adoption and quite a few infertility specialists telling them this would never happen to them, Justin and Christie Petersen and their adopted children Matallee, 7, K'Leanne, 5, and Jaxtin, 1, welcome Lily'rei Elle to the family. Christie gave birth to Lily'rei in July.

heavily subsidizes adoption as well."

She says a new site, ItsAboutLove.org, provides birth parents with helpful information about alternatives to abortion and about adoption. The site also allows couples to post profiles. With the upgrades currently being developed, birthparents will be able to more easily search for a family they feel would be a match for the child.

Brother Gwilliam encourages each individual to become informed and involved.

He says, "If we don't do our part, that

doesn't mean the children who need our help will just go away. ... We should each be praying for opportunities to be tools in the hand of the Lord. If we can help just one child, our efforts will be well worth it."

To read more about Christie Petersen's adoption experience, visit www.justinandchristie.com. Or, visit Jodi Davis's blog at www.jodidavisphotography.com. For other adoption information, visit the Web sites listed in this article or, to contact Dale Gwilliam, call 480-ADOPTION or e-mail dalegwilliam@gmail.com.

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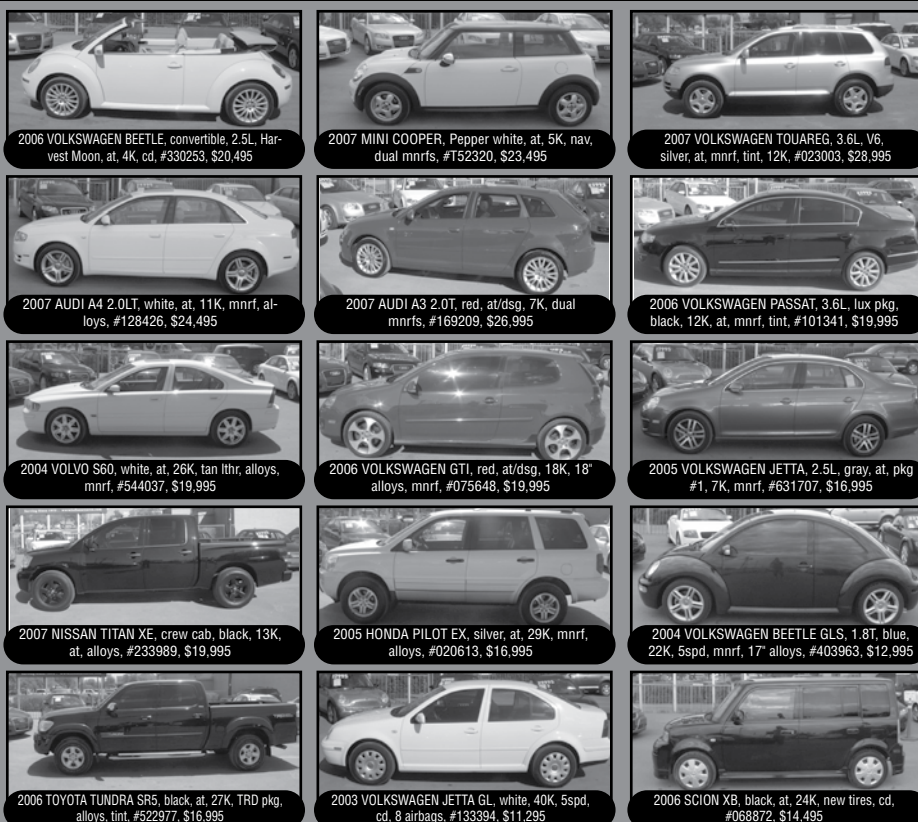
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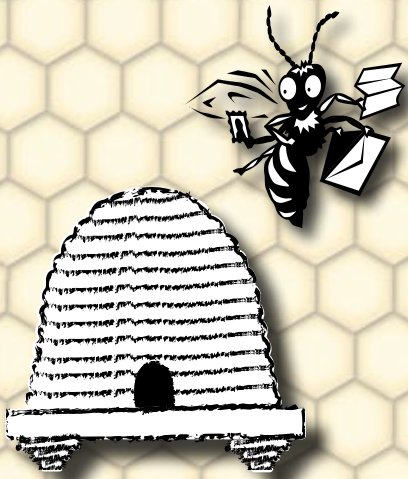
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Letters to The Beehive



Thank you Cecily.

The paper with Dallan Cloward and the whole issue was wonderful. You are the best!!! I share The Beehive with so many people.

Aloha,
Karen Gruninger
Emerald Bay Ward, Val Vista Stake

I just finished reading The Beehive. It is wonderfully done! Thank you so much for persevering in that project. You do a great service to our community.

Carol Soelberg
President
United Families International
csoelberg@unitedfamilies.org

Dear Ms. Markland,

I would like to thank you for the wonderful article you published about Desert Club's Christmas Idea House in the September/October 2008 issue of The Beehive. The opening line was perfect, and it was helpful to be placed alongside the prominent article, "Parents of the Year."

The support that The Beehive gives to so many worthy causes is refreshing and appreciated by those who rely on community newspapers for publicity. The Beehive is as uplifting as it is honest in a world filled with negativism. I am proud to share your paper with family and friends, even those who are not of the LDS faith.

Best regards,
Christine Anthony
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Thank you also to Linda Hartmann. She is absolutely fabulous and we love working with her. It is always a pleasure to speak with her and she is extremely efficient in helping us get our ads in on time!

Thank you again. We really appreciate everything.

Jennifer Brady
A Thread Through Time, LLC



I am pleased, and a little surprised at how many people have read the article in The Beehive, and have made a special effort to tell me that they HAVE read it!
Blessed Sabbath Day !!

Helen Schlie
Helen_schlie@mchsi.com

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LDS CANCER SURVIVOR SPEAKS ABOUT CHURCH'S ROLE AT CONFERENCE



Photo provided by The Wellness Community

At the recent "Facing Cancer with Faith Community" conference, Heather Sandstrom, of the Citrus Heights Stake, was asked to share her experience from when she had thyroid cancer 16 years ago to explain how the LDS Church provides support and help to those diagnosed with cancer.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

A cancer survivor and member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Heather Sandstrom also is known for her willingness to serve, her involvement in various community efforts and her readiness to share her faith and testimony.

So, not only was she perfectly suited, but Heather welcomed the

opportunity when she was chosen to participate in the "Facing Cancer with Faith Community" conference.

Planned around the concept that "cancer cuts across all faiths and touches all our lives," the August conference was sponsored by The Wellness Community in cooperation with the Arizona Ecumenical Council, Arizona Interfaith Movement, the Arizona Department of

Health Services, and other organizations.

By providing education and information about cancer resources throughout Arizona, conference organizers hoped to help "faith communities support those whose lives are touched by cancer."

Sister Sandstrom, a member of the Estate Groves Ward, Citrus Heights

Stake, was asked to participate in a panel to explain how the LDS Church provides support and help to those diagnosed with cancer.

Heather was a young mother with four children, one only three months old, when she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer 16 years ago. After surgery to remove her thyroid and surrounding lymph nodes, she was secluded for several days while undergoing radioactive iodine treatments. She had to quit nursing and couldn't even hold her newborn close to her for several weeks, "because it could radiate his thyroid as well," she explains.

During the conference, Heather says, "I explained how Visiting Teaching and Home Teaching works," and told about the many acts of service performed for her and her family as meals were brought in and her children were cared for.

She told about spiritual support she received from such things as Visiting Teaching messages, having her Bishop visit her in the hospital and receiving Priesthood blessings.

"I also talked about our belief in Christ and the comfort and peace that brings," Heather says.

Following the discussion, several people approached Heather. "One woman said, 'Your church is so organized, and so compassionate.' She said her church did very little for her and her husband when he was diagnosed with cancer."

Another young man on the panel said he doesn't attend his church anymore after the way he and his family were treated when his father had cancer.

She told the young man, "In our neighborhoods, or with people we work with, we don't care if you're a member of our Church or not, we go visit and do what we can to help. We care for everyone regardless of their faith."

An East Indian doctor who has terminal cancer concurred. Heather says he told others, "I'm so grateful to my Mormon friends and how they put their arms around me and supported me."

Heather enjoyed her participation in the conference.

"It was a great experience," she

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Temple Service SPANS DECADES

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

Her labor of love having spanned more than 29 years, Royene LeSueur Andersen was recently released as a worker in the Mesa Arizona Temple. Her legacy of service and dedication will leave a lasting impression on her six children, 38 grandchildren and 73 great-grandchildren. In fact, all who have associated with Sister Andersen have been touched by her example.

Her oldest daughter, Shirlene Huber, says, "I have had several people through the years tell me that when they think of the temple, they think of our mother because they would always see her there when they went. They would say 'she looks like an angel dressed in white with her white hair.'"

Called to serve in 1979, Sister An-

dersen and her husband, Glen H. Andersen, were assigned to the Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday schedule. After her husband passed away in November 1982, Sister Andersen continued to serve.

Soon, she began showing up on Fridays and Saturdays as well, to voluntarily substitute for anyone who needed

it—so, for many years, she spent five days a week in temple service and participated in at least one session a week as a patron. Approximately two years ago, supervisors convinced

Continued on pg. 13



Photo courtesy of Nanette Allen

Eighty-seven-year-old Royene Andersen was recently released as a temple worker after serving several days each week for more than 29 years.

LDS Cancer Survivor Continued from pg. 10

says, adding that, as members of the Church, "Sometimes we don't realize how blessed we are to have such a wonderful organization and such compassion."

Born in Calgary, Canada, Heather graduated from Brigham Young University in Broadcast/Journalism. A former TV news anchorwoman, she also was named Miss Utah and Mrs. Oregon, and Arizona's Young Mother of the Year. She is currently on the Board of Directors for United Families International, National American Mothers, Mesa Arts Foundation, Ballet Etudes, BYU Alumni and Southern Virginia University, and president of Mesa Republican Women.

She has been a speaker for "Especially for Youth" at BYU and NAU and for women's, young adult and young women's conferences. Heather has been a narrator for the Mesa Temple Easter Pageant for the past 10 years and she serves as Mia Maid advisor and enjoys playing the organ and piano in her ward.

Her husband, Dr. Paul R. Sandstrom, has a dental practice in Mesa and is bishop of the High Groves (single adult) Ward. They have five children and three grandchildren.

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Photo courtesy of Jack Marple

More than 500 volunteers from the Gilbert Val Vista Stake helped complete nine Eagle projects simultaneously in a massive community service project at Canyon State Academy in Queen Creek.

NINE

Simultaneous EAGLE PROJECTS Give Canyon State Academy a Facelift

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

In a massive, community service effort that involved more than 500 volunteers, the Gilbert Val Vista Stake gave the Canyon State Academy a facelift, and, in the process, helped nine Eagle Scout candidates

complete their projects simultaneously. Stake High Councilor Bryan Anderson, who coordinated the October event, says the stake wanted a project

Continued on pg. 13

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Nine Simultaneous Eagle Projects
Continued from pg. 12

that would contribute to the community and would involve all organizations from all the wards in the stake.

He says when they visited Canyon State Academy's 173-acre Queen Creek site, they found, "It needed a lot of work and there was a wonderful opportunity to serve out there."

Canyon State Academy, formerly Arizona Boys Ranch, provides a shelter program and a residential program with academy-style accredited school for young men, says Cassandra McCray, community affairs director.

In order to "meet high standards of academic, vocational, behavioral and athletic accomplishments," their students spend nine hours a day in class, so "we don't have the time to get them involved in projects like this," Cassandra says.

Brother Anderson explains that each of the Eagle candidates was assigned a specific project, then each organized their own ward's efforts.

"We spread 100 tons of rock, painted a half mile of fence, cleaned up and painted two classrooms and a barn," he says.

Eagle candidate Jack Marple, of Voyager Ward, headed up the project to paint the barn. He says, "I got a lot of support from my ward. Our ward family is very strong and people are very willing to help."

For his project, Phylip Curtis, of Lakeside Ward, organized the painting of the goat pens and fencing. He, too, was pleased to find "a lot of people came to help me. More than I expected."

From Park Village Ward, Michael Montes de Oca organized the project to repaint the pigpens.

Michael, whose family fairly recently moved to the area says he enjoyed getting to know ward members as they worked together.

He adds, "I learned how much time it takes to organize and how things fit together with effective planning."

Andrew Shelley, of Crystal Shores Ward, worked with Mission Bay Ward, the stake's young adult ward, to paint the horse corral. He says, "The finished project looked really nice. It was a lot of work, but we did a lot of good."

Other Eagle candidates completing their projects that day were Coe Mangizi, Crystal Shores Ward; Jacob Palfreyman, Emerald Bay Ward; Scott Warner, 12th Ward; Jake Elmer, Lindsay Ward; and Ted Bell, 4th Ward. Another Scout, Nelson Morris, was involved in organizing the project.

"We are so appreciative of all the help," Cassandra says. "We were really glad to be part of these Eagle projects and we're so excited with the results. It looks just like new."

Anyone wishing to learn more about Canyon State Academy and about possible service projects may contact Cassandra at 480-987-9700.

Temple Service Spans Decades
Continued from pg. 11

her to go back to a three-day-a-week schedule.

Though her mind is keen and alert, deteriorating health for the 87-year-old temple worker began to affect her mobility, causing her to question her abilities to do all that was required for her calling. Concerning Sister Andersen's release, Janet Davis, a temple coordinator, said, "We dreaded the day when this would come. [She] is such a wonderful person, a fine example and we will truly miss her."

Daughter, Nanette Allen, says, despite her mother's physical frailties, she served willingly, always wearing a smile and never complaining.

Sister Andersen, who currently resides in the Udall Ward, Mesa Stake, says a favorite part of her years of temple service was helping young women who were going through the temple to receive their endowments and be sealed to their husbands. She says, in the temple, she felt close to Heavenly Father and the Savior, and to her husband, Glen.

The Andersen siblings agree it is the end of an era for their family. Their mother grew up in the shadow of the temple, a member of the LeSueur family, early pioneers of Mesa. Royene's father had passed away before her birth. She lived locally until just after her graduation from Mesa High School, when the death of her mother required she move to Las Vegas to live with a brother.

Royene met her husband there when he helped her try on shoes at JC Penney. Later, he enjoyed telling their children, "I held your Mom's foot before I held her hand."

The two were married in the St George Temple and moved to Mesa in 1949. Glen started a men's clothing store—LeSueur's Mens Store—with a brother-in-law.

The LeSueur's five daughters and one son all were married in the Mesa Temple.

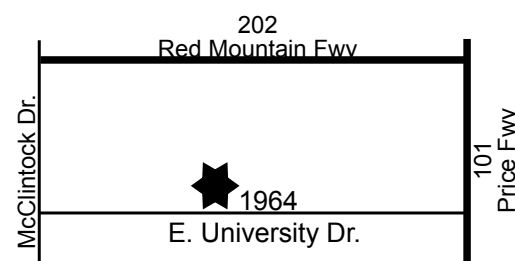
"We love and appreciate our parents and the fine example of service they have shown to us," Nanette says, "Our family has been so blessed because of their willingness to serve."



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Gilbert dad's **INVENTION** helps his daughter and thousands of others like her

By Cecily Markland
 The Beehive

The ideal background, opportunity and motivation all seemed to converge for Sam Thomasson—then he added hours of labor and an unstoppable passion—and the result has not only helped his own daughter but thousands of others like her.

Sam's daughter, Kate, now a Gilbert High School senior, was born with a profound hearing loss.

Sam and his wife, LaWana, of the Windrift Ward, Gilbert Stake, tried to help.

"We bought the best hearing aids we could find, but she still just struggled," he says. Especially around crowds or in classroom settings, "The background noise would just overwhelm her."

An electrical engineer by background, Sam set out to find a solution.

That became a 15-year quest, during which time he made over 100 prototypes and invested a large portion of his life savings. Some days he worked all day and night without sleep. Eventually, he had "some pretty significant breakthroughs," which spawned a company called Acoustic Technologies.

Yet, running that company wasn't where Sam needed to be.

"I went to the Board of Directors and said, 'I owe it to my daughter to do what I originally set out to do,'" Sam says.

He went back to the drawing board, focusing on finding techniques and processes that would allow a hearing aid to function better, with better sound quality and less feedback, particularly in social settings.

His determination paid off. He developed a hearing aid that can tell the difference between human sounds



Photo courtesy of Sam Thomasson

Sam Thomasson, shown with his wife, LaWana, and daughter, Kate, has 57 patents on the processes he developed as he worked to come up with a hearing aid that would help his daughter and others like her who have hearing loss.



Photo by Adam Nollmeyer of Acme Photography

With hearing aids based on the patented processes developed by Sam Thomasson of Gilbert, Zounds Hearing Centers, like this one in Paradise Valley Mall, can now be found in three Arizona locations and in 15 other markets across the country.

and machine-type sounds and "gets rid of the noise without corrupting the sounds." The hearing aid is fully rechargeable and costs about half as much as other models. Sam now owns 57 patents and is the founder of Zounds Hearing, a Mesa-based hearing aid company. The company employs 250 people and has 29 retail locations across the country, three of them in Phoenix—at Arrowhead, Paradise Valley and Super-

Continued on pg. 15

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stition Springs malls.

He says seeing the company grow has been a great blessing. "I have been guided through this process," he says. From raising startup capital to attracting the right talent, "I've had a tremendous amount of support to make this thing happen."

However, he says, that is second to what is most rewarding of all.

"With a Zounds hearing aid, my daughter and others are able to enjoy social type settings. She can now make a phone call in a crowded school hallway, or go to class and hear the teacher; the noise around her doesn't bother her anymore."

Kate has a 4.0 GPA, has been active in Young Women's, and has earned the Seminary award each year. She has enjoyed working with her dad, wearing the prototype hearing aids and learning about the process of how products are created. In fact, Kate has set a goal to go to BYU next year and to major in engineering.

"I want to encourage her to achieve what she can achieve," her dad says, adding, "For me, personally, she's an inspiration."

For more about Zounds or to find a Hearing Center near you, visit, www.zoundshearing.com.

Plan now to attend annual Writers Conference

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Have you ever thought you might want to write the next great American novel? Or just get some tips on creating your own family history? Whatever your writing aspirations, the annual writers conference of the American Night Writers Association (ANWA) is regarded as one of the most informative around, providing tips, tools and inspiration for all.

ANWA is a unique network, with

membership open to LDS women writers; however, the conference is open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. This year's conference will feature Gracia Jones, author of *Emma and Joseph: Their Divine Mission*, as the keynote speaker. Among the other presenters will be local children's author Scott Emerson, LDS fiction author JoAnn Arnold and publicist Doug Johnston.

The ANWA conference will be from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at the Eagle's Aerie School at 17019 S. Greenfield Rd., in Gilbert. Following the last session, conference attendees may meet and purchase books by the presenters and other ANWA authors at a "Book Signing." Mark your calendar now. Please visit <http://www.anwa-lds.com/> and then bookmark the site, so you can check back for details.

ANASAZI Foundation's 20th Anniversary Weekend with headliner Brooke White and seminar by Dr. C. Terry Warner

Author and Arbinger Institute founder Dr. C. Terry Warner, will share his thoughts on family and relationships in a three-hour seminar on Saturday, December 6 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Mesa Arts Center's Ikeda Theatre.

The seminar is part of the nonprofit ANASAZI Foundation's 20th Anniver-

sary Weekend, which will also feature a December 5 gala with American Idol Top 5 Finalist Brooke White. The gala will honor Dr. Warner along with philanthropist Robert C. Gay, and ANASAZI founders Ezekiel Sanchez and Larry Olsen.

Tickets for Dr. Warner's 8:30 a.m. lecture are available for \$25. They may

be purchased from the Mesa Arts Center box office by calling 480-644-6500 or online at www.mesaartscenter.com.

For more information on the ANASAZI gala and the weekend's other events, contact ANASAZI at 480-892-7403 or visit www.anasazi.org.

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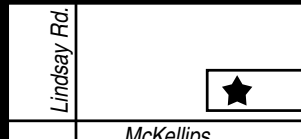


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Groundbreaking Ceremony Celebrates Rebuilding of Stake Center Destroyed by Fire

By Betsy Love and Maddi Merrill
The Beehive

Nearly 10 months after the Mesa Arizona Lehi Stake Center was completely destroyed by an arsonist's fire, a ceremonial groundbreaking marked the beginning of the construction of a new building on the site at 1430 N. Grand Street.

The fire that gutted the 27-year-old

building occurred in the early morning hours of Nov. 19, 2007, and the three wards that met there—the Lehi 2nd Ward, Mesa Vista and Hillside Ward—were relocated to nearby chapels for their meetings.

"It was sad. I felt sad for days after," says Joan Sowards, who with her husband, Dennis, and their family has



Photo by Jared Rogers

A pancake breakfast and ceremonial groundbreaking celebrated the beginning of the construction of a new building on the site where the Mesa Lehi Stake Center was destroyed by fire last year. Shown turning over some of the first shovelfuls of dirt are (l to r) Kevin Horne, Stake Clerk; Barry Shelley, Stake Executive Secretary, Elder Wilford Anderson of the First Quorum of Seventy; Craig Ahlstrom, Stake President; Mesa Mayor Scott Smith; Robert Klepinger, and Keith Clouse.

lived in the stake for 25 years.

Yet, she says, stake members drew together and supported one another through it all.

"Everyone sort of put their arms around everyone else," says Hillside Ward Bishop James Stock.

At an April 2008 stake conference, Stake President Craig Ahlstrom announced that a new chapel would be constructed on the same site and, on Sept. 27, 2008 more than 500 stake members, neighbors and friends gathered to celebrate with a pancake breakfast and official groundbreaking ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony were city of Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, Elder Wilford W. Andersen of the First Quorum of Seventy, and President Ahlstrom.

"Our community is based not on buildings but on the human spirit," said Mayor Smith during his remarks. "It is the undying human spirit that overcomes challenges and makes a community great."

The new 24,500 square foot, traditional style meetinghouse will feature a brick façade with white architectural elements anchored by a single spire as its focal point. Construction was scheduled to commence shortly after the groundbreaking and completion is anticipated within 12 months.

President Ahlstrom, who consulted with Church leaders regarding the decision to rebuild the Stake Center on the same site, stated, "We have a firm commitment to preserve the beauty of this place. We hope that this facility will continue to be a profound influence for good in this community, and it is with deep gratitude that we move forward to rebuild this beautiful house of worship." He added, "We were all saddened by the destruction of the previous building, but we know that as we rebuild we will strengthen individuals, families and the surrounding community, bringing them closer to a knowledge of the goodness

Continued on pg. 17

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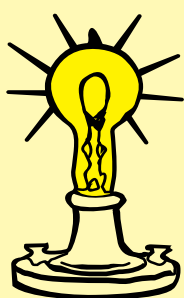
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Ward Members & Extended Family Rally in support of seven-year-old

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Mckinzie Peterson's older brother, Hunter, describes her, saying, "Her crooked smile is just a little funny."

Her parents, Josh and Jana Peterson, of the Sierra Ranch Ward, Queen Creek East Stake, say they are just grateful she is here to share that smile with them.

Seven-year-old McKinzie was

taken to the emergency room, Sunday evening, June 1. She had been sick and wasn't getting better.

Doctors diagnosed her with an enlarged heart, meaning, congestive heart failure. McKinzie was put into a medically induced coma then helicoptered to Banner Desert's Pediatric ICU, where she was hooked up to monitors and medicated to regulate her heart.

A few days later, her heart stopped



Photo by Stacy Johnson

Ward members and extended family have rallied in support of McKinzie Peterson, 7, pictured here at Phoenix Children's Hospital. McKinzie says she just needs "a little help" to get better after suffering congestive heart failure and a subsequent stroke this summer.

and she had to be resuscitated. After consulting with the doctors, the Petersons say, "We made the decision to take

her to Tucson, where they put McKinzie on a heart bypass machine so that her heart could rest and shrink back to its normal size so that it would hopefully function on its own again."

However, when the bypass procedure was performed, a clot went to the left side of her brain, causing a stroke. "We did know that it was possible that a clot could go to any part of her body, but our choices were, put the machine on and take a chance, or our child would most likely die—it wasn't a hard choice."

McKinzie spent the next three weeks in Tucson, recovering from her heart condition, and, now, from the stroke. She had lost most of the use of her right side. She was transferred to Phoenix Children's Hospital on July 4, where she continued to recover, undergoing many hours of therapy each day.

"We would have never made it through this ordeal without our family and friends," the Petersons say.

They say the many people who drove to Tucson to visit McKinzie, provided welcome support for them as well.

They also are grateful for grandpar-

Continued on pg. 18

Groundbreaking Ceremony Continued from pg. 16

of our Heavenly Father."

In his remarks, President Ahlstrom said the stake members could have chosen to be angry or to rebuild. "We chose to rebuild," he said.

He also referred to the building of the Salt Lake Temple, noting that it took 40 years to build. He said, while the building of the new chapel wouldn't take as long, it would take some time and patience would need to be exercised during the process.

Elder Andersen said the rebuilding of the chapel was "an exciting time" that would offer opportunities to share the gospel with others.

Representatives from Porter Brothers, the construction company awarded

the contract for the building, marked the position of the future podium, then Elder Andersen, Mayor Smith, President Ahlstrom; Keith Clouse, First Counselor in the Stake Presidency; and Robert Klepinger, Second Counselor in the Stake Presidency, were the first to thrust in their "golden" shovels and scoop out a spade full of dirt. Stake members and their families were then encouraged to take the opportunity to do the same.

"Our chapels are not all constructed with the same design features," said Church apostle Elder L. Tom Perry recently in a worldwide conference. "However, each one centers on the mission of our Savior. They are buildings dedicated for the purpose of worshipping Him."

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Rose Parade Ride Holds Special Significance for One Cowgirl

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Recognized as ambassadors of the Western way of life, the Cowgirls Historical Foundation is known for its focus on preserving Western heritage and history.

Now, the Cowgirls are making a bit

of history of their own as they were recently invited to participate in the prestigious Tournament of Roses parade for the third year in a row.

Among the group's members, 10 of whom will ride in the Parade, are several who are Latter-day Saints.

One, Nicole (Carson) Bonilla, has a family history of several generations of Church activity as well as deep roots in Western showmanship, as her grandfather was a trick roper and performer who rode with the likes of Roy Rogers.

Nicole says, "I am honored to have

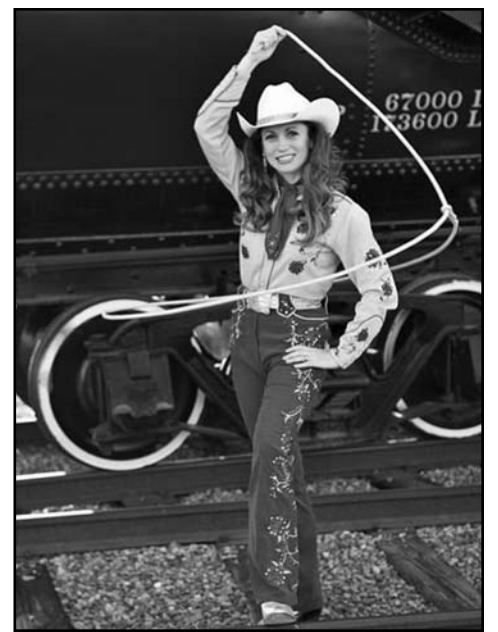


Photo by Charles Brooks

One of the 10 members of the Cowgirls Historical Foundation who will ride in the Tournament of Roses Parade this year is Nicole Bonilla, of the Chandler East Stake, shown wearing the shirt she had altered from the one her grandfather, Buss Carson, wore in the first of 35 consecutive Rose Parade rides.

Continued on pg. 19

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Ward Members and Family Rally Continued from pg. 17

ents, aunts and uncles who took over the care of their four other children—Greg, Geordan, Hunter, and Madyson—so they could give McKinzie the attention she needed.

Members of the Peterson's ward also reached out to help. Sister Peterson says, "We had so many members offer to make meals, clean our house, take care of our kids, call to express their love and concern, and most importantly to pray for us. The most important thing is that we know God's plan. Without knowing what I know, we would have had more despair and uncertainty."

Brother Peterson agrees, adding, "McKinzie received a priesthood blessing within hours of her arrival at Banner Desert and so did Jana and I. We feel that this singular act, plus all the prayers in between from family and friends, made the difference not only in McKinzie's recover but in our ability to cope and endure."

McKinzie's parents say she is doing well. Her illness occupied her entire summer, but she started first grade with her peers. Even though she spends time away from the classroom doing physical and occupational therapy, with the support of her teacher and the school staff, McKinzie is getting into a normal routine. "She is a miracle in the eyes of so many people. Our goals for McKinzie right now are to get her back to where she was before all this happened. One day we pray that McKinzie will be able to run again, and catch a ball, and read as well as she did before, but we are happy that she is still here, and will take whatever God will give us."

McKinzie added, "I'm gonna get better, I just need a little help."

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Photo by Patricia Gomez

The Cowgirls Historical Foundation feels "extremely honored" to have been invited for the third year in a row to ride in the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day, according to Julie Brady, of the Citrus Heights Stake, who handles the group's public relations and is one of several Latter-day Saints in the group.

the opportunity to ride in the Rose Parade. My grandpa, Buss Carson, rode in the parade for 35 consecutive years. I will be wearing a shirt he had made for his first appearance in the Parade. I had the shirt altered and I made a pair of pants to go with it. I will also be riding in his Bohlin silver saddle."

Her grandfather, wanting to provide an opportunity for his family to work together, started the Carson Family Stunt Capade in the late 1930s. The trick-riding and roping show toured the United States, Mexico and Canada, performing at large fairs and rodeos.

"My dad (Merrill Carson), the youngest of his five children, had the same goal in mind for our family," Nicole explains. "I am one of six children and we all grew up performing in the family show."

She did trick-roping, clogging, singing and a dog act. At 15, she performed the main horse act with her palomino stallion, Majestic (a great-grandson of Roy Rogers' horse Trigger).

Nicole's father passed away three years ago, and she says, "My grandma, grandpa and dad all are buried in Forest Lawn Mortuary that overlooks the Los Angeles Equestrian Center where we will be performing as part of the Rose Parade. This will be a very special and personally significant experience for me."

Nicole, who graduated from BYU in graphic design/advertising, is married to Gabe Bonilla. Together they run Bonilla Design & Advertising out of their home. They have five children. Nicole is Lindsay 1st Ward's Laurel advisor and Gabe is a high councilor in Chandler East Stake.

"I feel blessed to be part of the Cowgirls Historical Foundation—a group that celebrates the same values, traditions, and heritage that are so dear to my heart and part of my own family's legacy and that I hope to pass on to my children," she says.

Watch the Cowgirls in the Parade

New Year's Day, and for information about their educational and community service programs, visit www.cowgirl-historicalfoundation.com.

Dr. Robert Millet to Speak in Arizona in February

Well-known lecturer and author, Dr. Robert L. Millet will present two lectures in Arizona in February 2009. He will present "The Atonement—its Infinite Reach and Intimate Touch" at 7 p.m. Friday, February 20, at the Tempe Institute, 1000 South McAllister in Tempe.

His second lecture, "The Righteousness of Our Savior," will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, February 21, at the Mesa Red Mountain Institute, 7126 E. McKellips Drive in Mesa.

Dr. Millet is a professor of ancient scripture and former Dean of Religious Education at BYU. He is considered one of the foremost scholars on the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible, and he appears frequently as a commentator on BYUTV and in other vis-

ible roles as Manager of Outreach and Interfaith Relations for Church Public Affairs.

His February presentations are part of the semiannual lectures sponsored by "Friends of Religious Education," a BYU support group. The lectures are free and open to Church members, members of other denominations, missionaries and investigators. Institute and seminary teachers and students are especially encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Wayne Lewis, President of the Arizona Chapter of Friends of Religious Education, at 480-354-8105.

To receive electronic notices of future BYU Religious Education lectures, e-mail lori_soza@byu.edu.

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Photo courtesy of Courtney Kendrick

Stephanie and Christian Nielson of Mesa were critically injured in a small plane crash in August. Stephanie's sister, Courtney Kendrick, is caring for their children, Claire, 6, Jane, 5, and Ollie, 3; and another sister, Lucy Beesley, is caring for Nicholas, 2. Cristian, 29, who had burns to 35 percent of his body is now at his parents' home, continuing his physical therapy. Stephanie, 27, who was burned over 83 percent of her body remains at the Arizona Burn Center.

Tender Mercies

FOLLOW TRAGIC AUGUST PLANE CRASH

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The headlines are horrible and heart wrenching: Christian Nielson, 29, and his wife, Stephanie, 27, were injured when a private plane crashed August 16 in St. Johns. Christian was burned on 35 percent of his body, and Stephanie on 83 percent of hers. A third person on the plane, Doug Kinneard, 48, died the following day from his injuries.

Yet, as terrible and tragic as it is, the real story goes far beyond those headlines—with entire chapters of faith and of family, of strength and of service and of the power of prayer.

Doug Kinneard, a commercial flight instructor who had more than 1,000

hours of flight time, was a member of the Thayer Park Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake. His wife, Roslyn, says the acts of service and tender mercies of the Lord began immediately after the crash.

"They couldn't have crashed in a better place," she says, as a man was immediately on the scene and helped put out the flames that were engulfing Doug.

The man later told Roslyn that Doug had been talking about her and their four children, three of whom are still at home.

The three were air-evacuated to the Arizona Burn Center in Phoenix.

Continued on pg. 21

Tender Mercies Follow Tragic Crash
Continued from pg. 20

Upon arriving, Doug's heart stopped. "With burns over 90 percent of his body, they knew he wouldn't make it, but they resuscitated him. They really did it for us," Roslyn says. "It meant we got to spend 24 hours with him before he died. It was such a blessing to be able to do that. It was a really sweet experience."

She says the priesthood blessings Doug received from their bishop, Walt Woods, and her father; hundreds of cards; and "everybody's prayers have buoyed us up and helped us get through." She adds, "Having the gospel makes all the difference."

Christian Nielson's sentiments are similar. His bishop, Curtis Brown, of the Lazona Ward, Mesa Central Stake, says, "The first time I went to see Christian where he could actually talk to me, the first thing he said was 'I could feel your prayers. It was incredible how I could feel the prayers of people.'"



Photo provided by Roslyn Kinneard

Doug Kinneard, who was a member of the Mesa Mountain View Stake, was with Stephanie and Christian Nielson in a plane that crashed in St. Johns in August. Doug, who died the next day of his injuries, "died doing what he loved," says his wife, Roslyn.

The ward held a special fast then met at the church the Monday after the accident.

"Tons of ward members and people in the neighborhood were there," Bishop Brown says, "Our Stake President [Lawrence Wright] knelt down and pled with the Lord, really bargained with the Lord. It was an unbelievable experience."

With the prayers has also come an outpouring of service from ward members and others who know Stephanie and Christian. Their families, too, have gone much farther than a "second mile."

Stephanie and Christian have four children, ages 2 to 7, and two of Stephanie's sisters, who live in Utah, have taken the children into their own homes. One has kept Stephanie's well-known blog, The NieNie Dialogues, going and has started a blog of her own, at blog.cjanerun.com, to keep well-wishers informed.

Added to that are the numerous fundraising efforts. From concerts to

carnivals, from bake sales to blog auctions, friends and family have found creative ways to raise money toward the Nielson's healing and recovery, as well as to contribute to Doug Kinneard's family.

These caring efforts of others and the inner strength of the couple themselves, combined with the undeniable intervention of the Lord has resulted in countless miracles.

Stephanie remains at the Arizona

Burn Center of Maricopa Medical Center and has undergone numerous skin graft surgeries. Yet, at the end of October, doctors were slowly bringing Stephanie out of her sedated state and they said, "Stephanie can wave her arms and shake her head. She is moving now, responding to her family."

Christian went from the Burn Center to a rehabilitation center, then, on October 25, went to the home of his parents, Mary and Russell Nielson of

the Kimball Stake, where he will stay while undergoing therapy for the next few months.

Bishop Brown says, while fundraising efforts have been helpful to this point, "Their care will continue to be very expensive for many months to come." He encourages people to consider ongoing donations of even "\$5 a day, or \$20 a month."

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Photo provided by Ron Clark

Among more than 40 nonmembers who attended a special Sacrament meeting in the Val Vista Ward in September was Robert Collins (l) who was invited by Ron Clark (r). Robert, who has since started taking the missionary lessons, says, "Coming to Church on Sept. 21 was a very good experience for me. The Val Vista Ward members were kind to me. They seemed so nice, relaxed, happy, upbeat, positive, and caring about each other. It was obvious that they were 100 percent committed to their faith. I can see myself joining the Mormon Church."

Nearly **40** investigators attend ward's special missionary **SACRAMENT MEETING**

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

The Val Vista Ward has a plan: Increase missionary work and establish a lasting missionary atmosphere.

Now, two years into the five-year plan, Bishop Charles Doane says his ward has already seen incredible success.

"A key element of that plan was to provide instruction on how to 'invite,' and then offer special opportunities for members to extend invitations to friends and neighbors where they could feel the Spirit and be taught the gospel of Christ," he says.

One such opportunity was a special Sacrament meeting held Sept. 21—and, nearly 40 nonmembers attended.

Mesa Mountain View Stake President Don Evans. "From the moment [Bishop Doane] was called as the bishop two years ago he has focused upon the missionary effort. He is not bashful in setting ambitious, yet achievable, goals for his ward members to attain. His enthusiasm has energized the ward. Everyone is involved—Primary children, the youth and the adults. It serves as an example of what can happen when ward leadership assumes the responsibility."

In April, Bishop Doane asked the ward missionaries to develop a plan to teach ward members how to respond to common questions and how to engage nonmembers in gospel-related discussions.

Using information gleaned from Preach My Gospel and online LDS resources, the missionaries began giving 90-second spotlights on missionary work in opening exercises of priesthood and auxiliary meetings.

The ward also held a special fast and, as the special sacrament meeting neared, conversations at church and throughout the neighborhood turned to "who was inviting who."

"Without exception, everyone who accepted the challenge had a very positive experience," says Bishop Doane. "As a ward, we're learning that it is not all that difficult or frightening to ask someone to church."

"As I watched the dozens and dozens of non-members enter the chapel that Sunday, I simply could not contain my emotions," he says. "The faith and commitment to our missionary challenge exhibited by our incredible members was simply overwhelming."

"Bishop gave such a powerful message of the influence of the Savior in our lives," says Mikki Rogers, Relief Society president. "As I tried to experience the meeting through a non-member's eyes, I knew that no one could walk away from that meeting wondering if we were a Christian faith. The music and the messages given all bore witness of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Since then, some of the visitors have become investigators.

"Missionary work is really quite easy" says Bishop Doane. "As a ward to date, ... we have witnessed numerous miraculous conversions to the gospel, and we expect to be blessed with many, many more as we continue to follow the Savior's example and heed our prophet's request to extend ourselves in sharing the gospel with those whom the Lord has prepared."

"I loved it! I absolutely loved it!" Simon Cowell

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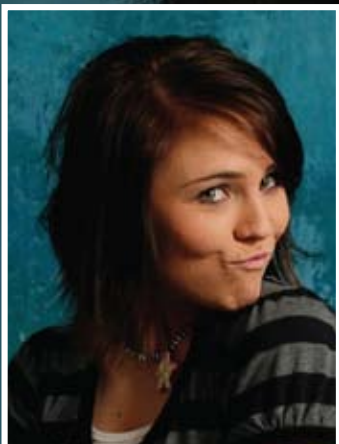
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SAFFORD COUPLE returns from mission to Cape Verde, Africa

By Tina Scott
 The Beehive

Safford, Ariz., is a far cry from the Republic of Cape Verde, a string of 10 islands off the west coast of Africa. Yet, when Louise and Ronald Tolman were called to those islands, where he would serve as the Cape Verde Mission President, they gladly accepted the call.

A relatively new mission, President Tolman was only the third president to serve there. Out of the 70 missionaries he led, approximately 20 were native to Cape Verde. Since nearly all of the missions in Africa are considered hardship missions, the Tolmans were only asked to serve two years.

"We really didn't suffer. We were very well off and very well treated. No complaints at all," says President Tol-

man.

He explains, "We had missionaries on six of the islands. We traveled every six weeks to all of the locations, met with the missionaries, and had zone conferences. We had zone conferences on three of the islands. The other missionaries would travel."

Sister Tolman says. "I kept some of the records and stats for [President Tolman]. We were responsible for the mission finances and the logistics of people coming and going." She also assisted with training at zone conferences, and re-did rosters, registers, lists and phones with each transfer. "I really enjoyed it," she says.

Continued on pg. 25

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Photo Courtesy of Louise and Ronald Tolman

Pictured with missionaries from the Praia and Santiago zones, is President Ronald Tolman, of Safford, who, with his wife Louise, served as the third mission president in the Camp Verde Africa Mission, which encompasses the string of 10 islands off the west coast of Africa.

Safford Couple Returns Continued from pg. 24

As part of his responsibilities, President Tolman oriented the missionaries as they came, interviewed them regularly, taught, trained and assisted them with their medical needs and even provided clothing for some.

“The mission had a closet with nearly 200 used shirts and pants, and a few new items purchased with donated money. Because of the Cape Verdians’ poverty, the majority of them would come and say, ‘President, I need some white shirts. Do you have any shoes?’

Do you have a pair of pants?’” says President Tolman. “Some of it was pretty ratty, but these kids would take it, smile and say thank you.”

The Tolmans say they especially came to appreciate the senior couples who served.

“We could not have managed without the senior couples. They helped the missionaries, they helped the members and they loved everyone and you better believe that the members especially loved them, even if the couple didn’t speak Portuguese—they spoke the Gospel and that was more important,” says

Continued on pg. 26

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FAMILYSEARCH INDEXING PROGRAM

There is a silent army at work—more than 100,000 volunteers sitting in front of computer screens worldwide, turning aging records into digital information—all with a common purpose of helping temple work more forward.

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

These volunteers are part of an effort to index names found on 2.4 million rolls of microfilm stored in the Granite Mountain Records Vault in the mountainside

outside Salt Lake City. Indexing will make these records freely accessible on the Internet to assist anyone in finding ancestors through easily searchable databases.



Photo by Jill B. Adair

FamilySearch indexing is fun and anyone can do it, says Darryl Milczarek, director of FamilySearch Indexing in the Mesa Kimball East Stake, which was recognized as one of the top five stakes doing indexing last year.

Since 1894, when the Genealogical Society of Utah was established, the LDS Church has gathered genealogical records from more than 110 countries and principalities. Only a small amount

of that information is currently available online, the rest FamilySearch Indexing program aims to change that.

The task is vast.

According to the Web site, www.familysearchindexing.org, the program has 15 high speed scanners running five days a week and, as of Aug. 29, 2008, there were 478,034,410 names available for indexing.

But, indexers are at work.

"This is probably one of the most important things we can do because it helps people do genealogy and, ultimately, temple work," says Jean Pruet, who has been involved in the program for 20 years. Previously called "extraction," the indexing program is a simplified process open to anyone who wants to volunteer.

Sister Pruet, of the Greenfield Park Ward, Mesa Kimball East Stake, is on the front lines doing indexing and arbitration, which is another important part of the work. Two volunteers, each

Continued on pg. 27

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Safford Couple Returns Continued from pg. 25

Sister Tolman. "In the two years we served, we had about 145 missionaries serve with us. They changed our lives; we will truly never forget them."

The Tolmans say they witnessed sacred traditions develop among the Saints in Cape Verde. They enjoyed seeing younger siblings who served missions because their older brother or sister had set the example. Some of their most cherished memories were seeing couples be able to go to the temple.

"The people were destitute. They would save what money they could, then, with the area presidency's approval, funds would be made available," says Louise.

"Perhaps the most gratifying of our experience," agrees President Tolman, "was witnessing the growth and the light in the lives of the people."

working independently, index a batch of about 50 names and, later, an arbitrator checks the two versions and reconciles any differences between them.

Despite suffering from health problems, since last fall Sister Pruetz has arbitrated more than 230,000 names. She is grateful to be able to serve and knows her work is making a difference.

"It's perfect for me," she says. "I'm not able to do a lot of other things, but with this I'm contributing a lot."

"Every name is important," she adds. Another volunteer is 90-year-old



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Become a volunteer indexer. Go to the **FamilySearchIndexing.org** and click "Volunteer."

Then follow the instructions to install the program onto your computer. You can work when and as much as you want to, at your own speed, and you can even choose which records you would like to index. There is a particular need for indexers with foreign language skills in Italian, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish.

Glen Patterson of the Century Gardens Ward, Mesa Kimball East Stake. A year ago, he was recognized as one of the top five arbitrators in the church.

"I have been involved with the extraction work for many years starting with temple indexing, and from there it has blossomed to a very complete program," he says. "I am thrilled to be a part of it. I feel like I am sharing the joy of the people whose names I work on."

Darryl Milczarek, director of FamilySearch Indexing in the Mesa Kimball East Stake, which was recognized as one of the top five stakes doing indexing last year, says anyone can be an indexer—homebound, youth, young single adults, elderly, those employed full-time or stay-at-home mothers. "It's ideal for anyone to do something other than doodle away time."

The work of the army is making its way online through a new pilot program that links names to their original record at www.familysearch.org (under Search Records, click Record Search pilot).

The work is going forward, and for active volunteers, the blessings are theirs in return.

Mesa Man Races to Raise Money for Liver Disease Research

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

For Johny Wudel, who grew up in Mesa and graduated from Mesa Mountain View High School, preparing for and running the Boston Marathon next year will not only be a personal achievement, but will be beneficial to a charitable organization as well.

Johny is the youngest son of Nanci and John Wudel. He and his wife, Corinne (Shumway) have two children and he is currently in the MBA program at Harvard. Because of school, he was unable to run a qualifying marathon, but has been accepted to run under the Boston Marathon Charity Program. So, in addition to training for the race, he will be raising \$4,000 for a charity—in his case, the American



Photo provided by Johny Wudel

Johny Wudel, of Mesa, who is attending Harvard Business School, will be running the Boston Marathon to raise money for the American Liver Foundation. Johny is shown here with his wife, Corinne (Shumway) and their children, Kate, 3, and Sam, 1.

Liver Foundation.

Johny says one in every 10 people, a total of 30 million, are affected by liver disease in the United States and his

own great uncle died of the disease. The funds he raises will help provide research, education, and advocacy for people with liver disease.

Johny says, "I'm passionate about running, my family, and trying to make the world just a little bit better than it was yesterday."

To see a message from Johny, to learn more about the charity or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit <http://go.liverfoundation.org/goto/johnywudel>.

Also, anyone who is interested can join Johny

in a 5K Run for Research race in Mesa on Dec. 20, at 9 a.m. For details or to register, e-mail Johny at charity5K@gmail.com.

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Jacob Coleman
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Daniel Cook
Grandview 1st Ward
New York, Rochester



Michael Curry
Ahwatukee 1st Ward
Canada, Vancouver Spanish Speaking



Greg Denton
Menlo Ward
Canada, Edmonton



Taylor Eystone
Ray 2nd Ward
Australia, Adelaide



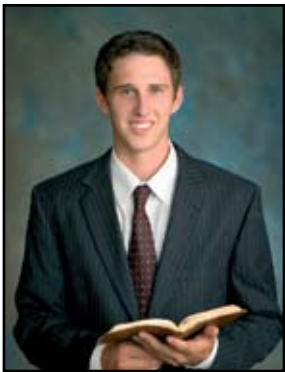
Josh Flake
Page Ward
Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo West



Christopher Gallacher
Ray Ward
Brazil, Macias



Camron Hardy
Hillcrest Ward
Idaho, Boise



Derek Herr
Constellation Ward
Sweden, Stockholm



Jared Hitchcock
Mesa 61st Ward
Kentucky, Louisville



Forrest Kennedy
Ahwatukee 1st Ward
Washington, Tacoma



Blake Larson
Kennington Ward
England, Manchester



Charlie Maxfield
Mesquite Ward
Brazil, Londrina



Kellen Mills
Groves Ward
Connecticut, Hartford



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Emerald Acres Ward
Guam, Micronesia



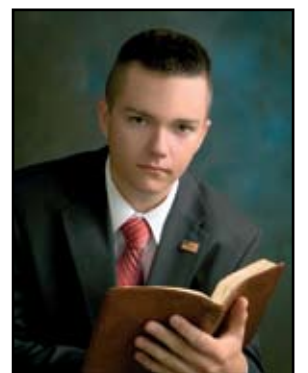
Tom Patterson
9th Ward
Washington, Tacoma



Tyler Phelps
Asland Ranch Ward
Texas, Fort Worth



Colton Porter
Fairway Ward
North Carolina, Raleigh Spanish Speaking



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Baywood Ward
Paraguay, Asuncion



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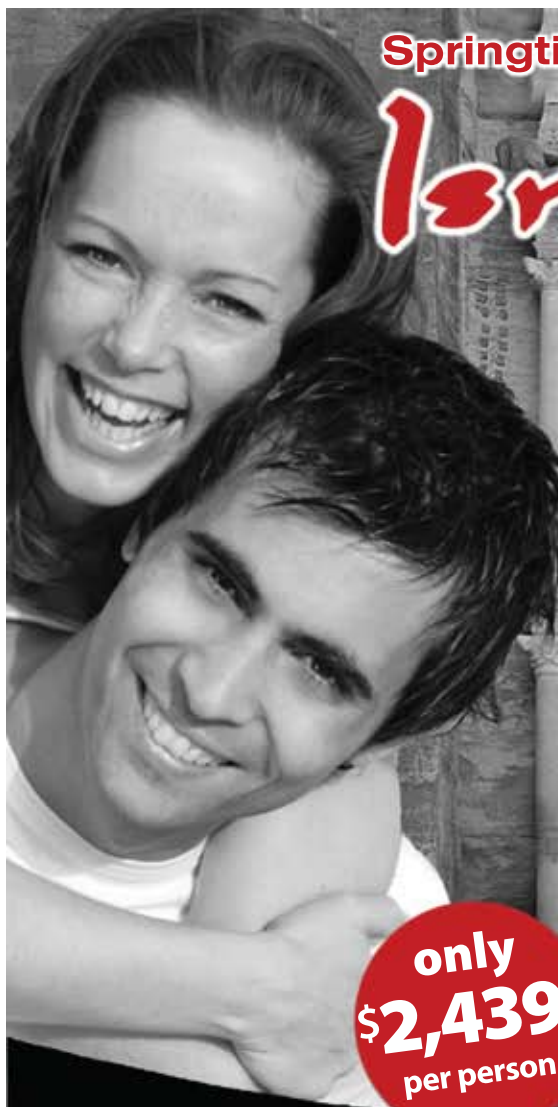
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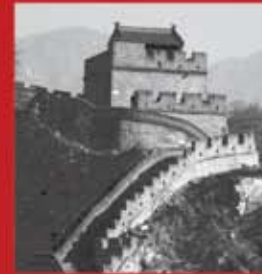
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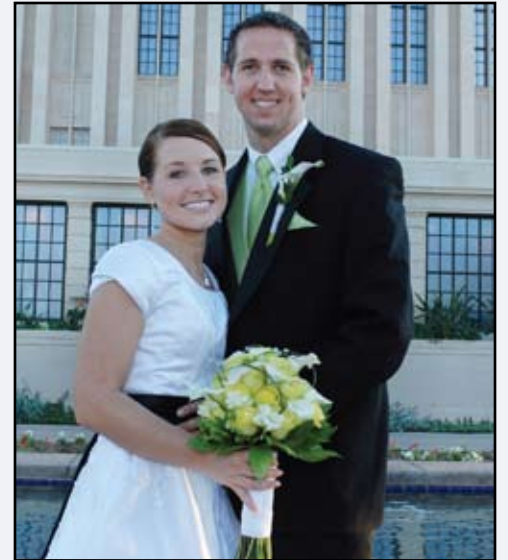
Births



Kim Williams & Darren Brown
Married August 30, 2008
Photo by Tami Webb Photography



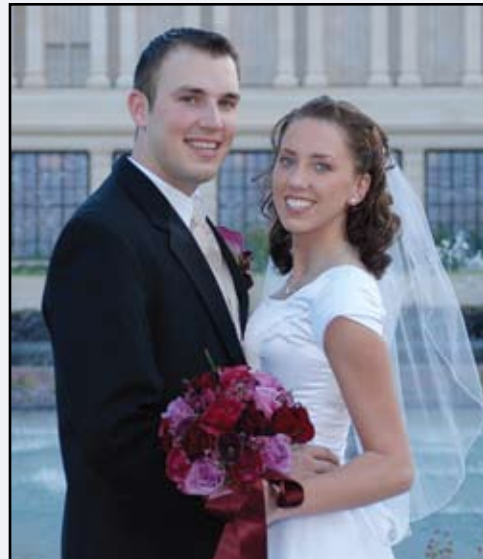
Jenafer Pratt & Trentan Hadlock
Married September 19, 2008
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Kylie Green & Brett Jenkins
Married October 24, 2008
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Shanae Strebeck & Chad Casper
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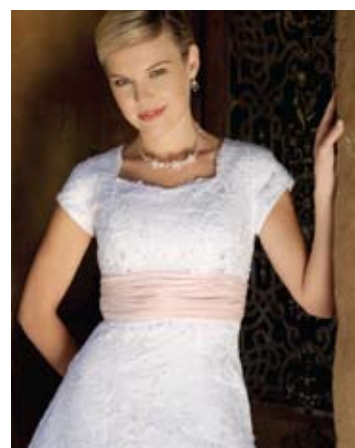
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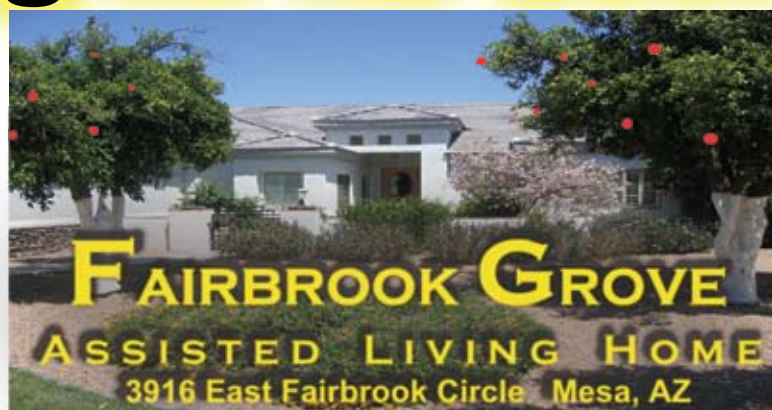
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American Idol
Top Five Finalist

Brooke White to light Temple Gardens Display

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The invitation has gone out to members of the Church and the community every year for the past 29 years—an invitation to *Celebrate the Life of Christ in Lights and Music* at the Mesa Temple Gardens lighting annual event.

This year's celebration begins with opening ceremonies featuring Brooke White of American Idol season seven Top Five fame, who will flip the switch to light the display on Friday, November 28 at 7 p.m. Following the lighting ceremony, the gardens will be lit from 5:30 until 10 p.m. each night through January 1, 2009.

The Christmas lights exhibit began as a small display, but now is recognized as one of the largest and most beautiful in the Southwest. In addition to hundreds of thousands of dazzling lights, the exhibit features free nightly performances by local musical groups and nativity exhibits from around the world.

Local Church leaders continue to see it as a way to share a message of peace and goodwill and to be a "light to the world."

Mark and LouAnn Done are the lighting directors, with last year's directors, Alan and Kathy Manwaring, serving as assistants. President of the Temple Garden Lights, Dee Hobbs says many of the



Photo courtesy of Brooke White

Brooke White, a native of Mesa and American Idol Top 5 finisher, will flip the switch to the 29th annual Mesa Temple Garden Lights display.

hour concerts each night at 7. Julie says, "I'm really excited about the groups this year. We've got some incredible local talent." A list of performances and other information is available at www.christmastemplelights.com.

For the fifth year, a display of nativities from around the world will be open to the public in the Visitors' Center. Sally Johnson, who had done such a display in Washington, DC, and brought the idea to Arizona, has been released and Debbie Horne, Sally's former assistant, will now serve with Susan Fuller and Laurie Garner helping. "With the display we are trying to exemplify the fact that the Savior is Lord



Photo by Richard Webb

The Mesa Temple Garden Lights display will welcome nearly a million visitors who will be able to wander among the unique lights display, hear nightly free concerts and, in the Visitors' Center, enjoy a display of nativity scenes from around the world.

old lights will be replaced with the extra-brilliant LED bulbs. The display will again feature the large outdoor nativity display and the life-size replicas depicting Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem.

Julie Petersen is the new program director, replacing Alayne Favereau after six years of service. Under Julie's direction, musical groups—including professional groups, family choruses, school choirs and two interfaith choirs—have been selected from all over Arizona to present free half-

throughout the world. These nativities are each so different, but they are each expressions of deep love for

Continued on pg. 35

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2008 TEMPLE LIGHTS CONCERT SCHEDULE

Nov. 28 F.O.G. - Men's Quartet
 Nov. 29 Tempe Community Chorus
 Nov. 30 Latter-day Singers
 Dec. 1 Notations - Women's Vocals
 Dec. 2 Mesquite High School Choir
 Dec. 3 Mesa Public Schools High School Harp Ensemble
 Dec. 4 Tempe Institute Choir
 Dec. 5 One Flock Cross in the Desert - United Methodist Church Choir
 Dec. 6 2.5.9 - Men's Quartet
 Dec. 7 The Kidmans - Women's Trio
 Dec. 8 Westwood High School Honor Choir

Dec. 9 Chandler/Gilbert Community College Singers
 Dec. 10 Poston Junior High School -Harmony and DaCapo Choirs
 Dec. 11 Arizona Deseret Choir
 Dec. 12 Taylor Junior High School Teen Tones
 Dec. 13 Flutasia - Flute Ensemble
 Dec. 14 Voices of Peace - Multi-denominational Choir
 Dec. 15 Mesa High Chamber Singers
 Dec. 16 Chancel Choir and Canterbury Bells - United Methodist Church
 Dec. 17 Mountain View High School Choir
 Dec. 18 Fountain Hills Community Choir
 Dec. 19 Rebecca Morris - Contralto

Dec. 20 MC6 - Men's Quartet
 Dec. 21 The Lee Family Singers
 Dec. 22 Voices One - The Larsen Sisters
 Dec. 23 Jordon Bluth - Tenor
 Dec. 24 The Carrolls All Year Round - Family Choir
 Dec. 25 Maricopa Stake Choir
 Dec. 26 4 in a chord - Men's Quartet
 Dec. 27 Mark Denton and Sons - Men's Vocals
 Dec. 28 The Cooley Sisters - Women's Vocals
 Dec. 29 The Kenneth and Marie Noble Family Singers
 Dec. 30 LIGHT - Teen Choir
 Dec. 31 Arizona Missionary Choir

Brooke White to Light Temple Gardens Display Continued from pg. 34

the Savior and his birth."

The Visitors' Center, adjacent to the Temple, at 525 E. Main Street, offers free tours daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the display.

Admission is free to the gardens and Visitors'

Center. Free parking is available in adjoining lots or on neighboring streets. Handicapped parking is available in the east parking lot. Tour buses are welcome and can be accommodated in the east parking lot.

Restroom facilities also are provided in that lot. For

questions about parking, contact the Mesa Arizona Temple Visitors' Center at (480) 964-7164.

More information about the Temple Garden Christmas Lights, including a performance schedule, is available at www.christmastemplelights.com.

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New Books from Arizona Authors

Great Reads in Time for Christmas

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Last Man Standing: The Landen Legacy, a first novel by Cory D. Carpenter, is filled with the western lifestyle and history that he loves. A relative of the infamous gunman, Doc Holliday, Cory was born and raised in Arizona and, at an early age, learned to ride horses, drive a tractor and appreciate life in the West.

Last Man Standing (published by Tate Publishing) tells the story of Monte Landen, a man fatherless and alone in the mountain ranges of Arizona, fighting to keep his cattle business alive and to ward off the notorious outlaws who take his friends hostage.

Last Man Standing is filled with Western style gunslingers, shootouts and close encounters at every turn.

Cory is married to Adriana Ruiz-Lopez and they currently live in the Solomon Ward, Mesa South Stake.

Last Man Standing is available at bookstores or can be ordered through barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com or walmart.com. Audio versions of the book

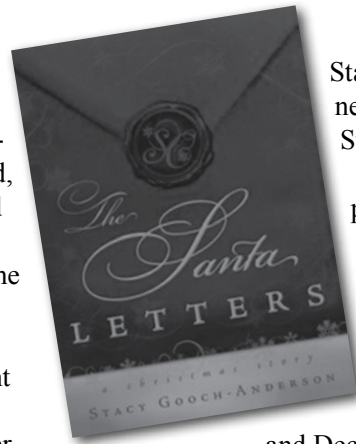
are also available.

The Santa Letters by Stacy Gooch-Anderson has been called, "heartwarming and filled with the spirit of the season" ... "sure to become a Christmas classic."

Stacy masterfully tells the poignant story of Emma Jensen, who, after her husband's sudden death, struggles to find hope in life and is dreading the holidays ahead. Yet, as the Santa letters arrive, filled with promises of gifts and instructions for activities, they teach Emma and her family the true meaning and gifts of Christmas, reminding them of the importance of traditions, laughter, friendship, family, mercy and forgiveness.

Included in this memorable book are instructions for how readers can create their own Santa Letters Christmas.

Stacy Gooch-Anderson was born in Maricopa and still has many family ties to Arizona. Her grandmother, Lucille



Stapley of Mesa, will turn 94 next month and, in addition to Stapleys, she is related *The Santa Letters*, published by Sweetwater Books, is available in bookstores and on amazon.com. For more about Stacy and her booksignings and speaking events in Arizona in November

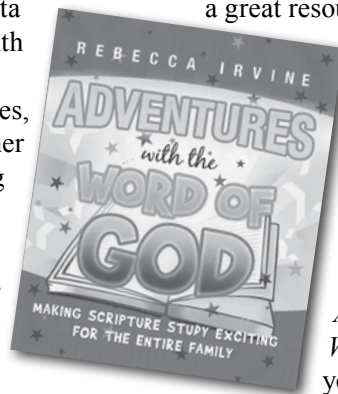
and December, visit www.thesantaletters.org.

Adventures with the Word of God is a great resource, with fun ways to

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By Rebecca Irvine of the Harris 2nd Ward, Mesa Central Stake, *Adventures with the Word of God*, provides a year's worth of scripture study themes help children

to better understand the language of the scriptures, encourage children to pay closer attention during family study time, and, ultimately, help them increase their individual testimonies.



Rebecca, a BYU graduate, served in the England London South Mission. Married for 12 years to her husband, Steve, she is the mother of three children. Rebecca works part-time as a market research analyst and volunteers as the research director for the Mesa Temple Easter Pageant.

Adventures with the Word of God is available in local LDS bookstores and online at amazon.com, deseretbook.com or from the publisher's Web site, www.cedarfort.com.

Puppy Stew, a children's book, is the first in a series by Carolyn Gregory, and published by Sortis Publishing of Mesa. *Puppy Stew* is available at amazon.com.



Counting the Cost is a Western

novel filled with romance and redemption by author Liz Adair, known for her Spider Latham mystery series published by Deseret Book. Her new novel will be out in Spring 2009, but a limited number of copies are now available through Liz's Arizona publisher, Inglestone Publishing, at www.inglestonepublishing.com.

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Again this Veterans Day— *a Mesa family remembers & honors nine who served*

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

On Aug. 14, 1945, just days after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, President Harry S. Truman received word of Japan's unconditional surrender. As the news of "Victory in Japan" spread, one Mesa family had special cause to celebrate V-J Day and the eventual end of World War II.

Counting sons, sons-in-law and grandsons, Clark and Hilda (Cluff) Webb had nine in the military.

Of their 14 children, four sons had gone to war: Ford and Lee Roy were Marines, Philip, in the Air Corps; and Earl in the Navy.

Their daughter, Charlotte "Ann" and granddaughter, Ila Porter, married brothers, Karl and Clay Reed, in a double wedding on Sept. 25, 1942. Both men shipped out shortly thereafter, Karl in the Army and Clay in the Signal Corps.

Ann, of Mesa Stake, says two months after she married Karl in the Mesa Temple, he left for basic training.

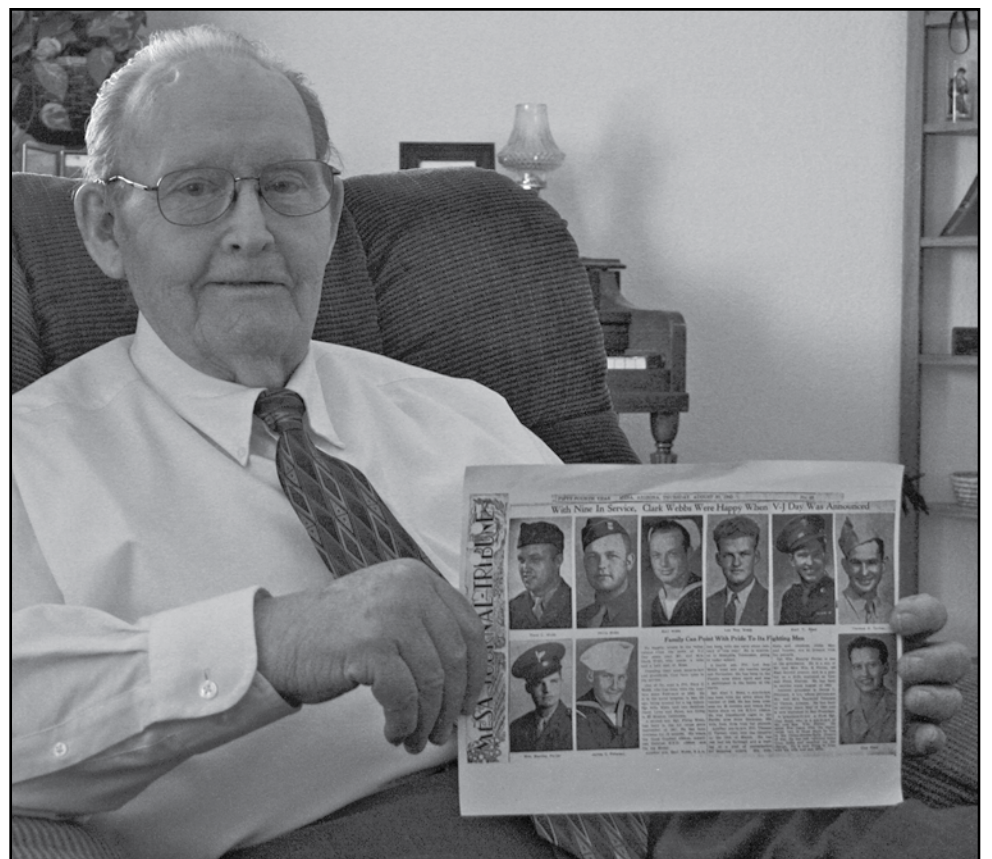


Photo by Jill Adair

Cleiburn Petersen is a veteran from the Clark Webb family who had nine family members serve in World War II. Brother Petersen holds an article from the Mesa Journal-Tribune that recognized the soldiers from his family, dated Aug. 30, 1945. His photo is second from the left on the bottom row.

"He had to report to the train station at midnight," she recalls. "We heard the train whistle, which meant it was coming and he had to go. It's the most lonesome sound. After he was gone I'd hear that whistle and remember the same feelings I had the night he left."

"It was just part of life then," she

says. "I don't recall exactly how we coped, we just did."

Another son-in-law, Thomas C. Turner, husband of daughter Katy, also served in the Army.

Along with grandson-in-law, Clay,

Continued on pg. 39

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Veterans Day Continued from pg. 38

two grandsons served: William Stanley Porter in the Air Corps and James Cleiburn Petersen in the Navy.

Of the nine, only two are still living: Ford Webb, 92, lives in Farmington, N.M., and 82-year-old Cleiburn Petersen lives in the Mesa Stake.

Brother Petersen recalls waiting to turn 18 so he could enlist and join his uncles serving their country. He figures his parents and grandparents did a lot of worrying, but he tried not to.

"My patriarchal blessing said I would come back," he recalls.

In fact, all nine soldiers returned home safely, though there were some close calls.

Ford suffered a leg injury during training and was in a military hospital on V-J Day.

Karl, while serving in France, had a growth removed from his arm but refused to stay overnight at the army hospital, returning instead to the foxhole he shared with fellow soldiers. That night the hospital was bombed.

Brother Petersen came close to receiving orders to board the USS Indianapolis. "If they would've picked one more gunner's mate it would've been me," he says.

The ship was later torpedoed by a Japanese submarine and, of 1,196 men on board, 870 died.

Sister Reed says, "We never thought



Photo provided by Cleiburn Peterson

Clark and Hilda (Cluff) Webb, who lived in Mesa at the time, had four sons, two sons-in-law, two grandsons and one grand-son-in-law all serving at the same time in various branches of the service during World War II. Two of those servicemen are still living.

about them not coming home. If you had, you would just go crazy."

She remembers the stars in the window of her home and her neighbors'. A blue star signified a family member in active service; a gold star meant they had given the ultimate sacrifice.

"That home was respected," she says. "Those soldiers wanted to go; they wanted to fight for their country."



By Rachel Faas Trim
The Beehive

Full-color wearable art: the latest technology in Custom T-Shirts

Picture this: A dozen eight-year-olds at a birthday party, patiently waiting to design their very own original T-shirt; while Keith Redford, of Rooster Printing, listens carefully to each guest's preferences and assists in capturing their personality into a design masterpiece. All are engrossed in the process as one by one, they choose graphics on the computer; add shading, borders and fonts; and, even, immortalize their own words onto a T-shirt.

Guests then hover around the hi-tech machine while it dyes their full-color custom design onto the fabric. A press seals the design, and within seconds,

guests can wear their one-of-a-kind T-shirt. Each guest leaves with a creative party souvenir—wearable art that



Photo by Andy Redford

Owners of Rooster Printing, Keith and Sandy Redford, say their custom technology printing process allows them to almost-instantly create and print personalized designs on T-shirts, canvas bags, quilt blocks and most any other fabric—and they can do it all onsite at parties, family reunions or community events.

Continued on pg. 41

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LDS Survivors of Suicide SEEK HELP & SUPPORT

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

“Whatever the circumstances, the loss of a child is extremely difficult, but to lose a child to suicide seems to compound that loss, especially for members of the Church,” says C. Everett Bailey, area coordinator of the Association of Mormon Counselors and Psychologists (AMCAP).

One Chandler mother, whose son took his own life this past January, can testify to that. Although she asked that her name not be used, she hopes her experience may help others facing the aftermath of suicide.

“It’s almost a taboo topic. Ward members don’t quite know what to say and there isn’t a lot written by our Church leaders about suicide.” She felt a strong need, “to see somebody face to face that has suffered loss like I have suffered.”

So, when she learned about a support group called Survivors of Suicide, she began attending and went for several months.

There, she was able to share the story of a son who, beginning at about

age 12, became depressed and started “going downhill” and, by the time he was 14, he had “pretty much shut down.” The group was somewhat helpful, but because it didn’t approach the issue from a gospel perspective, a big component of what she needed was missing.

She decided, “I had two choices. Number one, I could go hide in a closet and say, ‘This isn’t fair. Why me?’ or, number 2, get up and go to work and figure out the pieces of the puzzle that would bring understanding and peace about what had happened.”

She says, “The gospel is the focal point of what’s holding the puzzle together for me. My faith and knowledge of the gospel, my testimony is the biggest piece right in the middle.”

Darla Isackson, who lost her 33-year-old son to suicide in 2004, wrote about suicide for Meridian Magazine: “I ... can only bear the realities of this situation because of my faith in God, the love, mercy, and atonement of Christ, and my unfailing faith in the hereafter. How does anyone survive such sorrow without sustaining faith,

without the Comforter?”
The mother from Chandler agrees, saying she found comfort in knowing, “Only the Lord knows. He knows so much more than any of us. He will make things right. He has mercy.”
She says, above all, priesthood blessings from their bishop helped her and her husband most right after their son’s death and continue to sustain them.

“Especially right at first, but wherever someone is in this process, I’d tell them, ‘Get a priesthood blessing from your bishop,’” she says.

A Valley priesthood leader, who has counseled with several families affected by suicide, says every situation is unique. Yet, he believes, “for comfort, direction and support, an individual’s priesthood leaders are the best source, without a doubt.”

He says priesthood leaders are responsible and best equipped to “mourn with those who mourn,” and they can give spiritual guidance as well.

Brother Bailey says priesthood leaders are uniquely situated to provide “eternal perspective” They can give

spiritual and emotional support and can help families recognize when additional grief counseling is needed.

He says, with the challenges facing teens today, parents need to “recognize potential signs of distress and struggle on their child’s part. It’s not that any of these signs will automatically lead to suicide, but parents need to be aware of what their adolescent is going through.” He says counseling may be beneficial for youth in distress. “Kids struggle. They face a lot of challenges today. Things are a lot different than they were even 10 years ago.”

Individuals or priesthood leaders wanting a referral to an LDS counselor who can assist with grief or family issues, can contact C. Everett Bailey at 602-629-5386 or visit www.ldscounselors.net

A Yahoo group—at <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/LDSurvivors/>—has been created as a forum for Latter-day Saints affected by suicide. Or visit, www.LDSurvivors.blogspot.com, a blog designed to provide tools and support.



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Woman sews for African Orphanages

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

Eighty-two-year-old Dellola Schaub believes, "Service is the rent you pay for the space you take up on earth." If that's the case, she's paid a lot of rent!

She began sewing for children in African orphanages more than five years ago and, since then, has made thousands of items including blankets, shorts, skirts, toys, book bags and more.

Items lovingly created by Sister Schaub are donated through a nonprofit organization called Care for Life (www.careforlife.org) and go to children in Africa, whose parents have died of AIDS. She knows her creations may one of the few things these children have to enjoy.

"It's very satisfying," says Sister Schaub of the Aspen Ward, Mesa Kimball East Stake.

Because of health problems she doesn't get out much anymore; so, "I'm glad to be able to do something for someone else," she says.

A mother of six children, grandmother of 27, and great grandmother of

nearly 50, Sister Schaub has sewn ever since learning how in a home economics class years ago. When she heard of the plight of children and mothers in Mozambique and the need for birthing supplies, she thought, "That's something that I can do."

She made traditional birth attendant kits, which included simply a triangular piece of fabric, an apron and some hygiene items. Next she began using her skills to create beautiful, bright and desperately needed clothing for children.

It was a natural fit for her. "I've made my clothes ever since I was out of high school," she says.

Last year, she heard there was a need for boys' shorts, and, "I suppose I made hundreds of them," she says.

This year, girls' skirts were needed, so, without a pattern, Sister Schaub designed different sizes and lengths. "I just found the easiest and fastest way," she says. She recently finished number 100, all sewn in brightly colored fabrics, most of which was donated to her.

Care for Life volunteers take the items to Africa when they go to work in the orphanages and do community service projects. Besides the skirts, the volunteers' suitcases will

be filled with these things Sister Schaub has made just since April: one baby quilt, four twin sheets, five burp cloths, 16 panties, 34 diapers, 42 crib sheets, 47 washcloths, 60 baby blankets and 500 play balls.

Before these items make their 10,000-mile trip, Sister Schaub already is back at one of her three sewing machines—making more things for the next trip.

Sometimes her husband, Art, or her grandchildren help stuff balls or dolls. "It's a good thing I do sew," she



Photo by Jill Adair

In the past five years, Dellola Schaub, 82, of the Aspen Ward, Mesa Kimball Stake, has sewn thousands of items for children in orphanages in Africa.

says, "It's the only thing I can do that's worthwhile anymore."

"Everyday I say a prayer so that I can make right decisions about what to make," she says. "I pray for my sewing machine; I pray for guidance."

Although she's never seen a child in a faraway land wearing one of her creations or playing with one of her toys, she figures they're pretty happy to have them. And, she's pretty happy to be able to make them.

Full-Color Wearable Art Continued from pg. 39

expresses much about the designer.

Owners of Rooster Printing, Keith and Sandy Redford, say they enjoy watching each creation unfold and "hearing" each artist's voice. With the custom technology printing process, designs can be created and then printed onto most fabrics—including T-shirts, quilt squares and canvas bags.

"Unlike the silk-screening process, which layers color on top of the fabric, this process produces a fabric picture

that is still porous, breathable and very comfortable. Even in warm or humid weather, a graphic on one of our T-shirts will never make you sweat," says Sandy.

"If a picture or graphic can be produced on a computer," she continues, "we can print it on T-shirts, hoodies, jeans, bags or towels. This creates a vibrant color image that does not crack or peel, even after 20 washes."

Most orders have a quick turnaround and can be shipped worldwide. No minimum orders are necessary and work is saved for future customer requests.

Rooster Printing is completely mobile, meaning it can be onsite at any

party or event. Since beginning their business in April 2008, the Redfords have seen just how much personalized projects can add to special events: family reunions, birthday and graduation parties, and church or neighborhood events.

"Our favorite clients," Keith says, "have original ideas that can't be produced by any other means, such as small businesses."

Recently, Keith worked with a man to design a shirt to honor his wife, who had passed away after battling breast cancer. The design included the well-known pink ribbon emblem, with her

photograph in the center, and a quote on the back of the shirt.

Sandy says, "We produced about 30 shirts for his family to wear for a cancer walk."

Keith and Sandy, members of the Fraser Ward, Mesa North Stake, have two sons—Andy, who recently returned from the Pocatello Idaho mission, and Tim, currently serving in the Hartford Connecticut, Spanish-speaking mission—and two daughters, Krystal and Emily.

For more information, contact Keith or Sandy Redford at 480.459.0571 or online at roosterprinting.com.

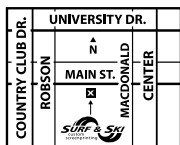
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Young people from Mesa help children in Africa “Stay Alive”

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

More than 70 young people from the East Valley actively participated in an effort to help African children “Stay Alive.”

In a concerted project to promote a benefit race in September, they passed out flyers, collected money and registered runners, all while wearing bright

blue T-shirts, emblazoned with invitation: “Ask me how you can help African children Stay Alive.”

The “Run for Life” was organized to generate funds for Stay Alive, a project of United Families International specifically aimed at teaching African children AIDS prevention behavior. Targeted at the root cause of the HIV/AIDS epidem-

ic, the program focuses on educating children between ages 9 and 14, before they become sexually active.

“It’s more than an abstinence program, it’s a life skills program that

teaches children how to make good choices in all aspects of their lives,” says Stay Alive director Kelli Houghton, of the Gilbert 6th Ward, Highland Stake.

She says many positive effects have been noted among the 800,000 children who have already received the educational programs. However, many more are waiting and will receive the information, “once we get funding,” Kelli says, adding that it costs only \$1 to provide the education for one child.

Jon Forrest, 13—a Stapley Junior High eighth grader and member of the Estate Groves Ward, Citrus Heights Stake—worked with his mother, Debbie, to organize the event. Before the race, he announced, “Over this past month, I have thought a lot about these African children. Children are children...we are all the same, whether in Africa or the United States. How much would each of us give to save one of our own children? With the money that you have generously given...18,500 children will receive the Stay Alive lessons and learn how to make good decisions and how to stay alive.”

Jon put in over 45 hours on the project, going door to door to deliver flyers to more than 200 homes and generating over \$5,000 in donations himself. He also arranged to have people at the event write letters to send to children in Africa.

He and the others who helped say



Photo by Steve Porter



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For business & personal success, *Ownership Spirit is The One Grand Key That Changes Everything Else*

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

As a business book, it's a perfect treatise for our times, with powerful tools for weathering change, growing through challenges, fostering greater personal accountability and re-engaging and energizing teams.

That, alone, makes his recently released book immeasurably valuable. Yet, highly praised author and corporate educator Dennis R Deaton goes far beyond that.

His book, *Ownership Spirit: The One Grand Key That Changes Everything Else*, is replete with spiritual truths and with a pattern for dealing with adversity and trials that is gleaned from the gospel itself.

So, while *Ownership Spirit* teaches proven practices for pulling organizations out of the vicious cycles of skepticism, cynicism and disloyalty, it also imparts to individuals the "skills and resources and, along with that, the confidence to succeed in their lives," Dennis says.

Called a "masterful speaker," his writing, too, is "reader-friendly" and remarkably instructive, filled with personal examples, clear explanations and moving case studies.

In fact, *Ownership Spirit* comes with a caveat, "It may cause upset to your status quo, do damage to your self-impeding habits and turn your world upside down," and, as a result, you may see improvements in your career, financial status, relationships, leadership skills and, even, your character.

For the past two decades, Dennis has taught the principles of *Ownership Spirit* to thousands of people through highly acclaimed corporate training and public seminars taught by his company,

Quma Learning. He's presented the same message to hundreds more over the last five years in a popular BYU Education Week class he calls "The Mind of a Faith-filled Disciple."

A member of the Thayer Park Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake, Dennis says, "I believe as Latter-day Saints most of us don't stress self-reliance sufficiently as a principle in our lives."

"We need to educate ourselves, to be stretching and feeding our mind good, sound perspectives. We need to be anxiously engaged in that," he says. "I believe there is a crying need for even the best of us—even the most faithful Latter-day Saints to look at ways to upgrade our personal skills in dealing with life-changing challenges and tests

Heavenly Father gives us. He expects us to take steps to strengthen ourselves in those areas."

Examining his own life, Dennis came to realize, "The experiences of most value were not the carefree, holiday-type days. Instead, they were the gut-wrenching experiences that I didn't like at the time; but, value came in the perspective gained, the purposes honed, the qualities cultivated in fires of those adversities. These were opportunities to draw close to Christ, to become like Christ."

He continues, "True owners—true Saints, if you will—have tools to help themselves work out in that spa of life and to gain strength—both personal strength and greater faith in the Lord."

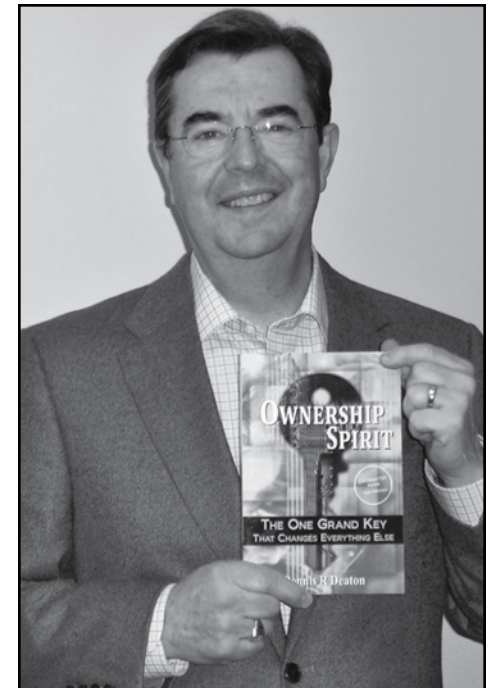


Photo by Justin Petrovay

Well-known corporate trainer and author, Dennis Deaton, shares powerful proven principles for success in business and life in his recently released book, *Ownership Spirit: The One Grand Key That Changes Everything Else*.

Simply put, he says, "*Ownership Spirit* gives people insights, tools and methods for enduring well."

Ownership Spirit will be available before Christmas. To learn more about Dennis R Deaton, his new book and the seminars he teaches, visit www.ownershipspirit.com

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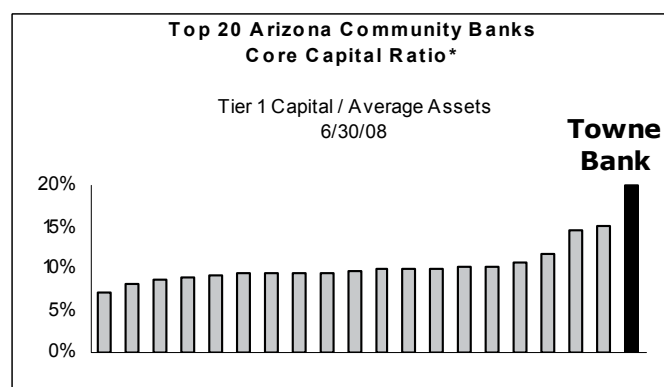
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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

More subtle than a Southwest season change

I've lived in Arizona for nearly 18 years, yet, autumn in the Southwest throws me off every year. Don't get me wrong, I love it when the mercury drops back down to double digits. I love being able to go for a walk without heat from the sidewalk cooking the bottoms of my feet. I love not having the air conditioner kick on until at least 10 in the morning.

Still, without a bit of "frost on the pumpkins," without mountainsides of trees donning their splashes of brilliant yellow, rusty red, orange and gold, I seem to miss fall all together. All of a sudden, we've gone from swimsuit weather right into December and, without even a bit of frost, it's time to deck the halls and don the holiday apparel—and nary a present has been bought or a Christmas pudding baked.

I lived in Utah for 12 years, and, there, I had plenty of snow days and freeze watches to remind me the seasons were changing and the holidays were on their way.

Here in Arizona, I have to be more vigilant, watch for subtle signs, heed even the slight changes in temperature. Here, I have to make plans and do what it takes to prepare for the holidays, even when, by all visible signs, preparations

don't seem necessary.

Much more subtle than a Southwest season change, the wiles of the adversary can easily catch us unaware and the consequences can be far-reaching and devastating.

I read a manuscript recently about the many ways our families are under assault. I was surprised, shocked and sickened to realize that wolves are not only at our doors, they have infiltrated our schools, have won over government officials and have organized an all-out feeding frenzy aimed at devouring all that we hold dear.

I now know to be more vigilant. I know to watch for subtle signs and to make preparations—long before snow falls in the desert.

I see more clearly now that prophecies are being fulfilled. I see the seasons changing. I know, more than ever, that the time is now to "watch and pray always lest ye enter into temptation; for Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat."

"Pray always, that you may come off conqueror; yea, that you may conquer

Satan, and that you may escape the hands of the servants of Satan that do uphold his work" (D&C 10:5)

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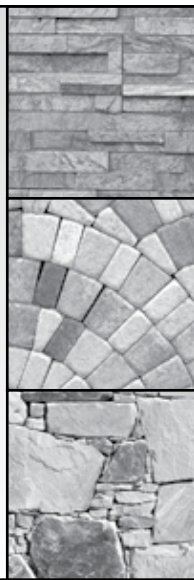
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Purcell Tire Succeeds with Hard Work, Perseverance and Giving Back

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Purcell Tire and Rubber Company is “a family company that takes care of families,” says Bill Guttery. For 15 years, Bill has been director of sales and marketing for Purcell, over all the stores nationwide.

He says, “We have 15 stores in the Phoenix area and six more in other areas of Arizona, where we provide complete auto repair—everything for your car from tires up.”

He says with this family-friendly, service-oriented approach that has been their trademark since the beginning, “Bob” and Juanita Purcell have built their family-owned company into one of the top tire dealerships in the county.

Young People From Mesa Help Continued from pg. 42

their efforts were well worth it.

Josh Houghton, of Highland Stake's Gilbert 6th Ward, says, for him, the best part of the experience was, “Just hearing about how much we are helping make an impact on the severe death toll due to AIDS in Africa, and how many lives we are improving and saving.”

Laura Richgels, a member of the First United Methodist Church in Mesa, says, “The simple idea that I, one single, small, seemingly unimportant person, could change even one person's life, is such an incredible idea. ...To imagine that the \$15 the average student spends on lunch throughout the week could save the lives of 15 children is almost incomprehensible that it's so simple to do so much good.”

The Run for Life raised \$18,500, but their goal was \$25,000, so they are still seeking donations. To learn about the Stay Alive program or to make a donation, visit www.stayalive.org.

They were named Tire Dealer of the Year in 2004 and inducted into the Tire Industry Hall of Fame.

Purcell Tire is now the third largest commercial tire dealership in the country, with seven retread plants, plus more than 60 locations throughout 10 states and Mexico—including the 21 full-service stores in Arizona.

Their success has much to do with their vision and business acumen, but, even more, it's the “down home” values of integrity, trustworthiness and hard work that set Purcell Tire apart. In addition, they have fostered an eagerness to share their bounty with others.

The company was founded by Bob's father, Robert M. Purcell, in Missouri in 1935. Bob met Juanita and they were married in 1955. After getting his business degree from University of Missouri in 1958, Bob went to work for another tire company.

In 1964, Bob's dad invited Bob and Juanita to join him in running Purcell Tire company. When his father died in 1970, they took over the management of the entire company. “We just continued what he had built,” says Bob.

Indeed, they did, and, on the foundation of hard work and integrity, they added their own brand of innovation and vision. They were on the cutting edge of research and technology and weren't afraid to try new things.

In 1983, they acquired the Phoenix-based Western States Tire and, in recent years, Purcell Tire has focused on developing its network of retail stores in the Sun Belt area, particularly in Arizona.

Along the way, Bob and Juanita have built a reputation for giving back. They say, with their Employee Stock Ownership Plan, “We want to create a lot of wealthy people,” through employee ownership.

They also give to many charities,



Photo courtesy of Bill Guttery

“Bob” and Juanita Purcell have built their family-owned company Purcell Tire and Rubber Company into one of the top tire dealerships and auto repair stores in the county, with more than 60 locations throughout 10 states and Mexico—including the 21 full-service stores in Arizona.

including Make-A-Wish Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the Boy Scouts of America, and various diabetes groups.

“Purcell is not only family-owned, but it is family focused, taking care of its employees and their families and looking

out for all the automotive needs of your family as well,” Bill Guttery says.

Purcell Tire and Rubber Company has 21 locations across Arizona. To find a store near you, visit www.purcelltire.com



IN THE MOMMY ZONE...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

Seasons Change

I got misty-eyed the other day when I bought diapers for my four-month-old baby. It appeared that she had doubled in size overnight and required a step up in diaper sizes.

"How can this be?" I asked myself. It seemed like I just gave birth to her. Now, she no longer qualifies as a newborn.

Over the past few weeks, she has learned to smile a wide, toothless grin when she recognizes me, roll from her back to her plump tummy, grasp her bitty toes in fascination, and blow bubbly raspberries in my general direction.

She no longer fits into her teeny, tiny, newborn clothes. It makes me genuinely heavyhearted to have to dig the boxes out of storage that contain larger sizes of girl's clothing.

I want her to stop growing so fast! I can see her changing daily, right in front of my eyes. I want to halt time and savor each and every cherished moment as she nuzzles her fuzzy head into my chest at naptime. I want to capture each precious second and permanently etch into my mind the way she coos and crows while desperately trying to stuff a pink pacifier into her puckered lips.

I want to make time stand still so I won't miss these fleeting moments of her infancy. I secretly wish to will her to quit discovering her fingers and fists as

she sits and stares at their uniqueness upon wiggling. I want to force her to stop tasting the delicacies of kisses, tears and cheeks as she grabs my face and covers me with dribble and delicious memories.

I see her growing and changing day-by-day and realize that I am helpless to stop it. The old adage stating that nothing in life is certain except change, takes on much more significant meaning to me as I watch her peaceful and rhythmic slumber.

My 15-year-old son asked me a question the other day and I stood staring up at him with my eyes bulging wide and my mouth gaping open. My mind reeled with questions of my own as I stood gawking at his stately physique.

"When did he grow so tall? Did he grow when I wasn't looking? Why hadn't I noticed it before?"

Right then and there, I wanted to reach out, grab the clock and force time to stop. I wished to bundle it all together and squish it into my pocket to save for later.

I realized that precious seconds were tick-tocking by and I was not even aware of them. That day, I saw my six children in a different light, sensing that the changes and growth they were experiencing daily were bittersweet.

They say change is good. As a mother, I say that change is a double-edged sword. As I look upon my

children, I see marvelous alterations that have taken place over the years-- their growth, learning, maturity, and capabilities have increased immeasurably.

I also see their independence, responsibility, and potential and realize that they are growing up and away from me as their mother. I relish in my children, reveling and rejoicing in their strengths and abilities, but I long for the days when I held them as babes, when their outstretched arms clung to me for security and support.

I treasure watching them develop, succeeding in school, sports, Scouts, music, and the like, but at the same time, pine for days gone by when just Mom was enough for them. I feel like a back-seat driver as they take hold of the wheel of their own lives and rev up the engine for life's action and adventure.

I cannot determine what the final life destinations of my children may be, but I can give them road maps to help chart their course, assist with oil-changes when life gets clogged up, and change flats when the world lets the air out of their tires. I can also be the time-keeper of this beginning stage of life's race and savor each moment I get to spend with them.

I'd better get out my checkered flag, the seconds are slipping by. Children don't stay young forever and I'm going to make the most of the few pit stops that we have left together.



Tami Webb

www.tamiwebb.com

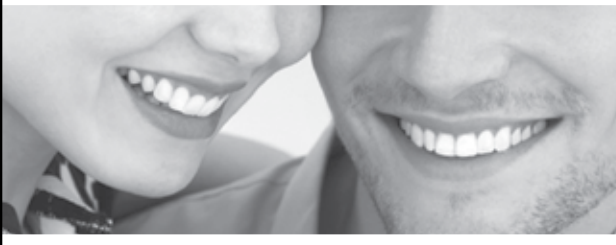
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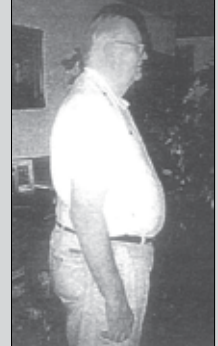


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G THE GOULD GROUP

brings EXPERTISE & EXPERIENCE to tough real estate market

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The Gould Group is a family of award-winning Realtors—Penny and Kelly Gould, and their daughter, Shannon Vowles. Their business is largely driven by referrals, a testament to the value they bring to their clients.

With the changes in the Arizona real estate market over the last few years, the Gould Group has focused on assisting clients in purchasing short sales and bank-owned properties.

“While the current economic downturn has tragically impacted far too many families, the large inventory of short sales and bank-owned properties has provided incredible opportunities for others,” says Penny.

“However, there are numerous issues associated with these transactions. For example, one of the bank-owned transactions we recently completed included an 11-page addendum from the bank. This addendum sought to negate many of the rights buyers are afforded in the standard Arizona residential purchase contract. Through our experience, we know how to protect those rights,” says Penny.

Susan Schreiber, a Gould Group client, says, “Penny and her team went above and beyond to help us find the best value and continually communicated to us what the procedures were when dealing with bank-owned properties. With her vast experience, we felt confident she was always looking out for our best interest as well as helping us avoid the potential

pitfalls. She was very aware of the costs, fees and inspections required, and who was responsible for them. I would highly recommend her services to anyone.”

The Gould Group also continues to be a leader in the luxury home and land markets. They are members of the Greater Phoenix Area Association of Realtors and the White Mountain Board of Realtors. Penny and Kelly have served with the other top agents in the company on the Keller Williams Realty East Valley’s Agent Leadership Council.

Continuously acknowledged for her dedication, Penny received the Keller Williams Values & Ethics award in 2005 and, in 2007, was nominated for the Keller Williams Cultural Icon Award. Also in 2007, the Gould Group was designated as “Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialists.”

While The Gould Group is consistently recognized



Photo courtesy of The Gould Group

Known as The Gould Group, the award-winning family of realtors—Penny Gould(l), her daughter Shannon Vowles (r), and husband Kelly—are known for their expertise and excellence in assisting both buyers and sellers, even in today’s difficult market.

for their knowledge and business ethics, for them, what is most rewarding is winning the trust and confidence of their many clients.

Shannon says, “It is a difficult market for both buyers and sellers, so we work very hard to provide the best customer service. We want all of our clients to have the best experience possible when either buying or selling their home.”

Penny adds, “We are very grateful and feel blessed to have worked with so many great clients over the last year. We wish everyone a merry Christmas and very happy

holiday season.”

For more information about the current real estate market, call the Gould Group at 480-600-3663 or visit www.TheGouldGroup.org.

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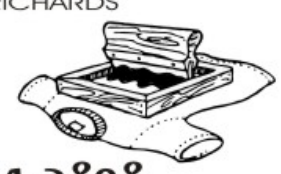
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Internet Tips

Technology is evolving all the time, and so are Internet threats. Yet, a few basic principles can keep you safe now and in the future.

- DO install antivirus protection. Viruses change all the time, so it's important to do regular system scans and updates to make sure your protection is current and working.
- DO install a firewall. Hackers run scanning programs over the Internet, looking for computers with electronic openings, called ports; good firewalls make your computer invisible to them. Some antivirus programs have built-in firewall features or a firewall can be separate hardware.
- DO install anti-spyware software. Spyware tracks your Web surfing and reports your interests. Adware sits on your computer and feeds you ads. Both will slow your machine. Malwarebytes or Spybot - Search & Destroy work well and are freeware programs available online.
- DO switch to Firefox Internet browser. It's free, it's more secure than Internet Explorer, and it blocks unwanted pop-ups. A great add-on feature



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called Adblock Plus removes page ads and banners on Web sites. Another is WOT (Web of Trust), which warns you about risky Web sites that try to scam visitors, deliver malware or send spam. WOT's color-coded icons show you ratings and help you avoid dangerous Web sites—green means go, yellow for caution, red to stop.

- DO shop only on secure Web sites. You can tell if a site is secure by checking the URL: https:// means it's secure; http:// means it's not. You can also look for a padlock icon in the browser window. Do not give out your credit card number over an insecure connection.
- DO use a strong password for logins, one containing letters, numbers and, if possible, symbols. Simple passwords are easily guessed or cracked. Keep these passwords in a secure area such as a password-protected word document or password-management program such as KeePass or LastPass.
- DON'T click randomly on a link (or open an attachment) in e-mails unless you're sure of what it is. Legitimate businesses, banks or online retailers will never send out e-mails with links

to update personal information. A link in an e-mail can say one thing and take you to somewhere completely different. It is a safe practice to never click on a link in an e-mail. Instead, open your browser and type in an address yourself.

- DON'T forward chain e-mails. Many chain e-mails are sent by professional spammers who use the chain to harvest working addresses. Many e-mails are simply hoaxes. Before hitting the "forward" key, visit snopes.com, type in a keyword from the e-mail and check whether the information is true or false.
- DON'T neglect cleaning out your browser's saved data regularly, this includes temporary Internet files and cookies. On Firefox use the Clear Private Data tool. On Internet Explorer, go to Tools, Internet Options, Browsing History, and then delete.
- DON'T allow neighbors to use your wireless Internet. The best way to protect your wireless network is through password encryption on your router.

Editor's Note: This column is designed to provide Beehive readers with timesaving direction and ideas for safely and easily surfing the Internet. To suggest a topic for a future column or to share an interesting Web site with others, e-mail 5adair@cox.net.

Filmmaker & his Wife to *Serve* as Directors of the Oakland Visitors' Center

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

With excitement and anticipation, Farrell M. and Diane (Case) Smith talk about their journey through life—filled with fond memories, noteworthy accomplishments, a future together and interesting new vistas ahead.

The couple says, “We have been greatly blessed with a sweet and wonderful second go around,” and, with that go around, has come an assignment to serve as directors of the Oakland

Temple Visitors' Center, a two-year calling, beginning mid-January 2009.

They met years ago when Farrell and his wife, Sandra, and Diane and her husband, Jim, lived in Tempe Stake's old Tempe 8th Ward (now Shalimar Ward). Sandra and Diane were close friends for over 30 years, since 1975 when they served together in the Relief Society presidency. Diane's husband, Jim, was an ASU professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences for nearly 40 years. Farrell adds, “I had the privilege of calling him as a bishop in one of our University Wards when I was

serving as the Tempe Stake President. He turned out to be an extraordinary bishop.”

When Jim passed away in 2006, Sandra—herself in the terminal phase of diabetes-related issues—told Farrell, “Jim's gone now and I'll be gone soon. If you're smart, you'll try to get with Diane.” A year after Sandra's death, on March 1, 2007, Farrell and Diane were married for time in the Anchorage Alaska Temple.

“Between us we have 11 children and 32 grandchildren,” Brother Smith says. He also is still an active owner of

ExerPlay, Inc., a company that designs and installs commercial playgrounds and skateboard facilities (www.exerplay.com).

Yet, the Smiths believe their family and business will be taken care of while they serve in the Visitors' Center.

In 1987, Farrell recalls, he and Sandra and their young family moved to Austria where he presided over the Austria Vienna Mission. “We took a three-year leave of absence from our business and were blessed tenfold when

Continued on pg. 53

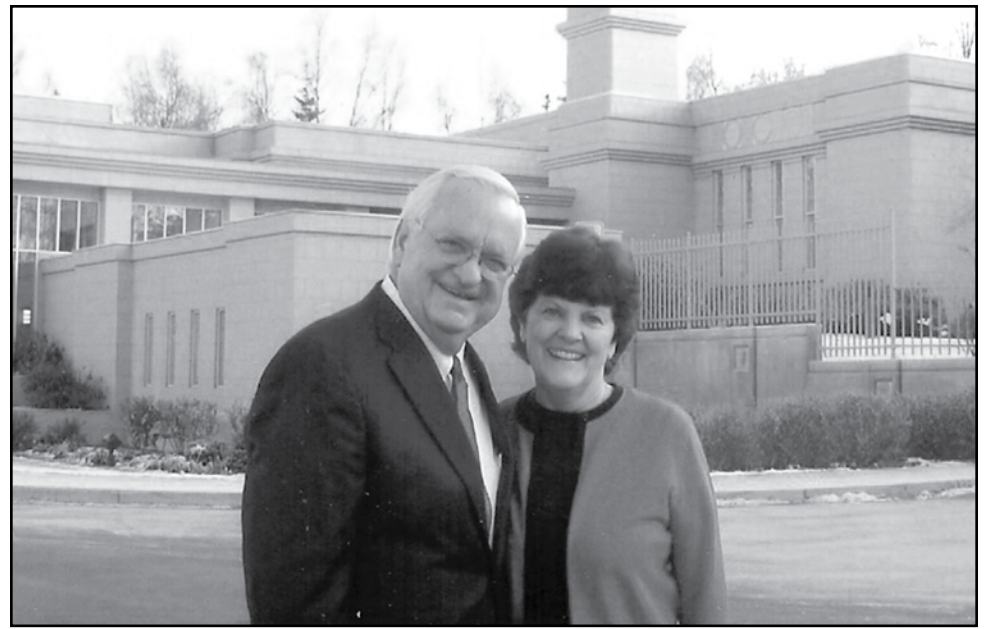


Photo courtesy of Farrell M. Smith

Farrell M. Smith and his wife, Diane (Case) Smith, who met in the old Tempe 8th Ward, will begin a two-year calling as directors of the Oakland Temple Visitors' Center in January.

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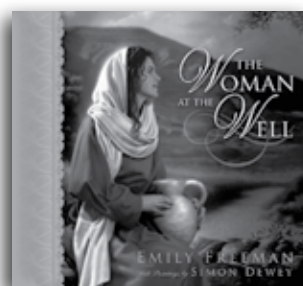


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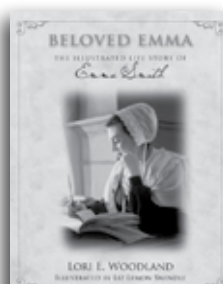


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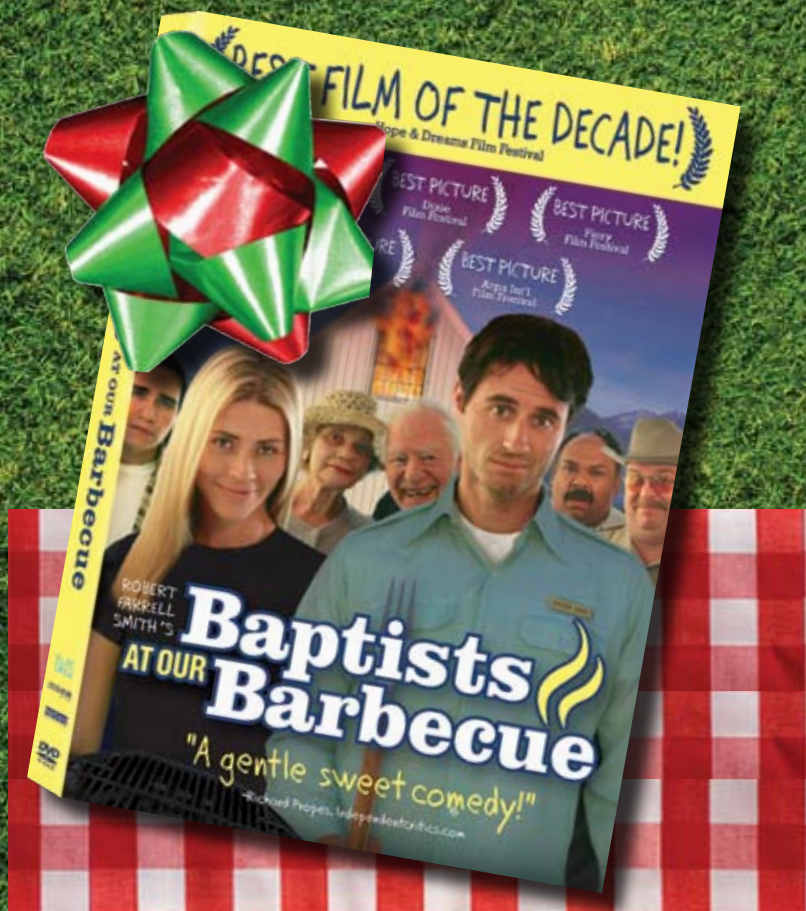
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Christmas Train Tour to Benefit Phoenix Children's Hospital

For a fun family holiday outing with children or grandchildren, consider Third Annual Christmas Open House and Train Tour sponsored by Arizona Big Train Operators (ABTO).

This year's tour will feature displays at 14 different sites throughout the Valley and will include garden railroads

and lighted Christmas scenes.

Along with providing a delightful family-friendly experience, the Valley-wide tour also benefits Phoenix Children's Hospital, as donations for the hospital are accepted at each site.

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's only licensed children's hospital, providing care in more than

40 pediatric specialties. Though Phoenix Children's is one of the 10 largest freestanding children's hospitals in the country, a \$588 million expansion is needed to keep pace with the population growth and to provide Phoenix Children's family-centered care to more patients.

The Open House and Train Tour

will be open at each location from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Dec. 13, 14, 20 and 21. A list of the locations can be found at local hobby shops or online, with links to maps to each location, at www.phoenixchildrens.com and <http://azbigtrains.org>.

Filmmaker and His Wife Continued from pg. 50

we returned. Diane and I anticipate the same type of blessings will come as a result of our service."

They also believe Farrell's filmmaking ventures will continue to flourish.

"I have been actively involved in filmmaking, beginning in 2004 as an executive producer of 'Baptists at our Barbecue,' which was based a book by my son, Robert Farrell Smith," Brother Smith says.

"Baptists at our Barbecue" was recently awarded Film of the Decade by the Hope & Dreams Film Festival in Hope, New Jersey (see www.bbqmovie.com). Brother Smith was also the executive producer for "The Errand of Angels," a heartwarming film about sister missionaries that showed in theatres throughout Utah and Idaho and will be out on DVD by Christmas. (See www.errandofangelsmovie.com for a trailer.) He is working again with the Austrian-American director Christian Vuissa to finish "Father in Israel," scheduled for release on Father's Day 2009.

He and his sons also hope to expand their production company, Blue Crow Productions, headquartered in Micronesia.

For now, however, the Smith's priority is their Visitors' Center calling, which they believe—like so much of their life's journey—"will be an exciting and interesting experience with unique opportunities to influence many."

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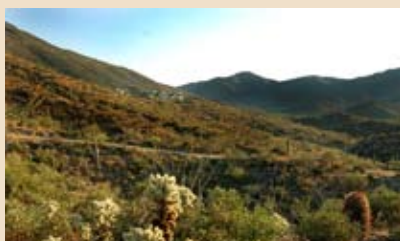
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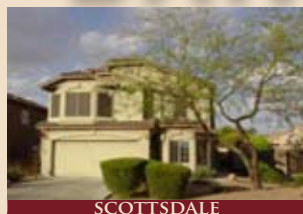


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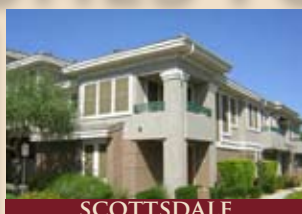
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